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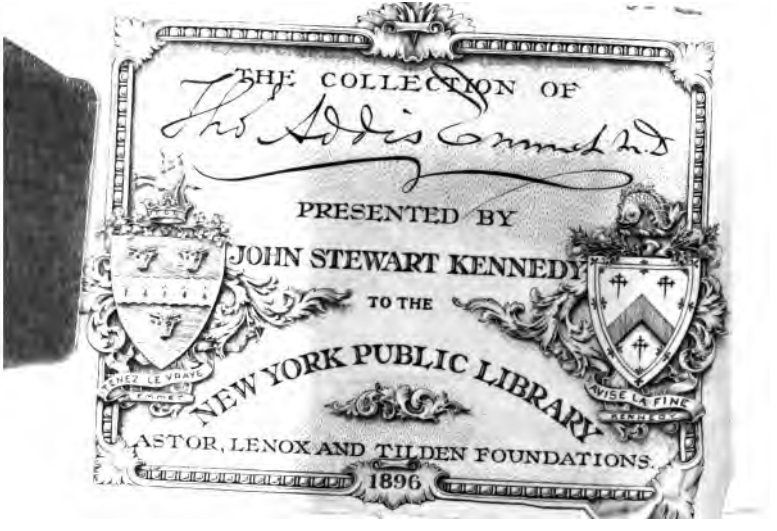
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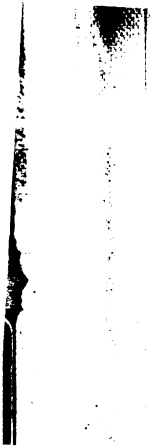

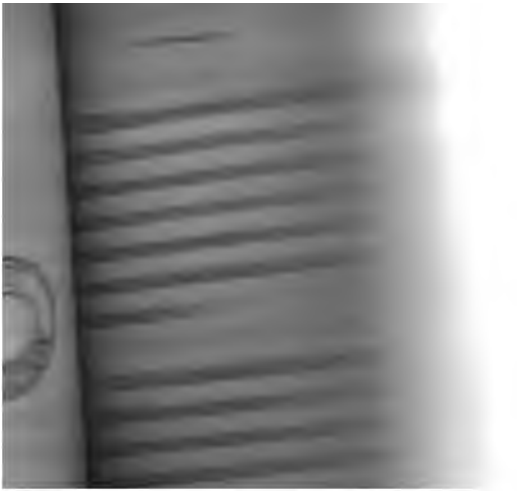

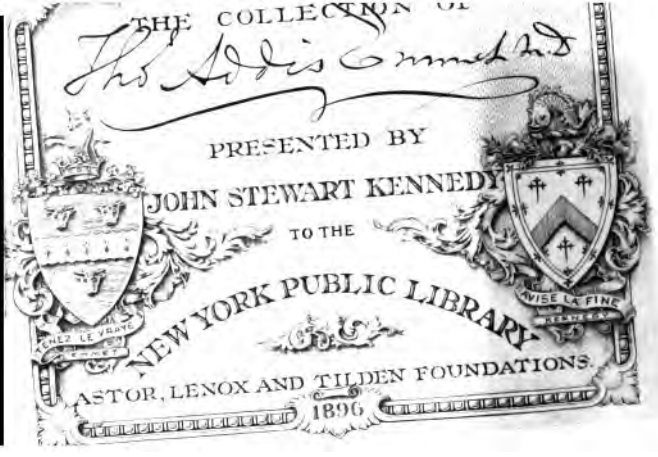
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WISE LA FINE

M'FINGAL:

A MODERN

EPIC POEM

IN

FOUR CANTOS.

BY JOHN TRUMBULL, ESQ.

EMBELLISHED WITH PLATES.

WITH

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

BALTIMORE:

PRINTED AND SOLD BY A. MILTENBERGER,

No. 10, North Howard-street.

1812.

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E.MIVET
COLLECTION

PREFACE.

THE following Poem was first published in 1782, in the state of Connecticut, where the author was born, and received his education, and where he now resides. It has passed through several impressions in this country, and Great-Britain, and has obtained universal celebrity.

In 1792, a splendid edition of it appeared in London, with explanatory notes. Some as these notes contain facts, and serve to elucidate passages, which would be otherwise obscure, they are retained in this edition: But as that London edition was published to answer the purpose of a party, the editor has taken the liberty to present the views of the author, the

and such of the notes as were inserted for that purpose, are here omitted. This is done at the request of the author, with whose permission, this edition is offered to the American public.

The design of the poem will best appear from its general tenor. The author, at the time the opposition of America to the unjust claims of the British parliament was maturing into system, lived in Boston with one of the principal projectors of American indepen dence. He espoused the cause of his country, and became intimately acquainted with the transactions of the early revolutionists, and all the measures of the British agents, to counteract the opposition. This appears by a number of anecdotes, very humerously related, in the course of the poem.

That the author is a warm friend of Amer ican independence, is obvious, from the

scope of the poem seems to have been, to ridicule the claims of the British parliament, and the measures pursued to enforce those claims. At the same time, the absurdities and misconduct of his own countrymen have not escaped his notice.

The author is no friend to monarchy, nor aristocracy; nor is he a raving democrat. He is a friend of republican government, and rational liberty—that liberty which is secured by just laws, and a steady administration of justice. But it is not true that the poem was written with the sole view to ridicule any particular form of government.

The scene of the poem is laid in Massachusetts, where the revolution originated. The time is in 1775. M'Fingal the hero is designed to represent the Tory faction in general: and Honorius, the Whigs.

It is unnecessary to say any thing of the merit of the poem. This is universally ac-

'o * Ossian's fam'd Fingalian race:
or tho' their name some part may lack,
ld Fingal spelt it with a Mac:
/hich great M'Pherson, with submission,
/e hope will add, the next edition.
His fathers flourish'd in the highlands
f Scotia's fog-benighted islands:
/hence gain'd our squire two gifts by righ
ebellion and the second-sight.
f these, the first in ancient days,
ad gain'd the noblest palms of praise;
ainst kings stood forth, and many a crown'
'ith terror of its might confounded:
ll rose a king with potent charm
s foes by goodness to disarm,
'hom ev'ry Scot and Jacobite

And with the sound of potent metal,
Brought all their blust'ring swarms to settle;
Who rain'd his ministerial mannas,
Till loud sedition sung hosannas:
The good lords-bishops and the kirk
United in the public work:
Rebellion, from the northern regions,
With Bute and Mansfield, swore allegiance;
And all combin'd to raze, as nuisance,
Of church and state the constitutions;
Pull down the empire, on whose ruins
They meant to edify their new ones;
Enslave th' American wildernesses,
And tear the provinces in pieces.
For these our 'Squire, among the valiant'st,
Employ'd his time, and tools, and talents,
And in their cause, with manly zeal,
Us'd his first virtue, to rebel;
And found this new rebellion pleasing
As his old king-destroying treason.
Nor less avail'd his optic sleight,
And Scottish gift of second-sight.
No ancient sybil, fam'd in rhyme,
Saw deeper in the womb of time:
No block in old Dodona's grove,
Could ever more orac'lar prove.

it stands before him, may espy;
optics sharp it needs, I ween,
see what is not to be seen.
in the days of ancient fame,
phets and poets were the same;
d all the praise that poets gain,
for the fibs they frame and feign:
gain'd our Squire his fame by seeing
ich things as never would have being.
Thence he for oracles was grown
he very tripod † of his town.
azettes no sooner rose a lie in,
lut straight he fell to prophecying;
Made dreadful slaughter in his course,
)'erthrew provincials, foot and horse;
brought armies o'er, by sudden pressin

† Hessians:

vided their estates and pelf,
nd took a goodly share himself.*
ll this, with spirit energetic,
e did by second-sight prophetic.
Thus stor'd with intellectual riches,
Skill'd was our 'Squire in making speeches,
Where strength of brains united centres
With strength of lungs surpassing Stentor's.
But as some muskets so contrive it,
As oft to miss the mark they drive at,
And though well aim'd at duck or plover,
Bear wide, and kick their owners over;
So far'd our 'Squire, whose reas'ning toil
Would often on himself recoil,
And so much injur'd more his side,
The stronger arg'ments he apply'd;
As old war-elephants, dismay'd,
Trode down the troops they came to aid
And hurt their own side more in battle,
Than less and ordinary cattle.
Yet at town-meetings, ev'ry chief
Pin'd faith on great M'Fingal's sleeve,

* This prophecy, like some of the prayers of Homer's heroes, was but half accomplished. The *Honeoyeins*, &c. indeed, came over, and much were they feasted with blood; but the hanging of all the rebels, and the dividing their estates, remain unfulfilled. This, however, cannot be the fault of our hero, but rather the British minister, who left off the war before the work was completed.

. turn'd up diff'rent; heads or tails;
/ith constant rattling, in a trice,
ıow'd various sides as oft as dice:
s that fam'd weaver, * wife t' Ulysses,
y night each day's work pick'd in pieces,
ıd though she stoutly did bestir her,
ı finishing was ne'er the nearer:
ı did this town, with stedfast zeal,
'eave cob-webs for the public weal,
hich, when completed, or before,
second vote in pieces tore.
ıey met, made speeches, full long-winded
:solv'd, protested, and rescind'd;
ldresses sign'd, then chose committees,
ı stop all drinking of bohea-teas;†

* Homer's Odyssey.

One of the subjects of dispute, which [illegible]

With winds of doctrine veer'd about,
And turn'd all whig-committees out.
Meanwhile our hero, as their head,
In pomp the tory faction led,
Still following, as the squire should please,
Successive on, like files of geese.
And now, the town was summon'd greeting
To grand parading of town meeting;
A show, that strangers might appal,
As Rome's grave senate did the Gaul.
High o'er the rout on pulpit-stairs,*
Like den of thieves in house of pray'rs
(That house, which, loth a rule to break,
Serv'd Heav'n but one day in the week,
Open the rest for all supplies
Of news and politics and lies,)
Stood forth the constable, and bore
His staff, like Merc'ry's wand of yore,
Wav'd potent round, the peace to keep,
As that laid dead men's souls to sleep:
Above, and near th' Hermetic staff,
The † moderator's upper half
In grandeur o'er the cushion bow'd,
Like Sol half seen behind a cloud.

* In country towns the town-meeting is generally held in the church.

† *Moderator* is the name commonly given to the chairman or speaker of the town meeting. He is here seated in the pulpit.

w all their legions out to fight:
ı equal uproar scarcely rave
ɔsing winds in Æolus' cave:
ı dialogues with earnest face
. never Balaam with his ass.
ith daring zeal and courage blest,
ɔrious first the croud address'd:
n now our 'Squire, returning late,
'd to aid the grand debate,
. strange sour faces sat him down,
e thus the orator went on:
-For ages blest, thus Britain rose,
error of encircling foes;
ıeroes rul'd the bloody plain;
onqu'ring standard aw'd the main;
liff'rent palms her triumph's grace,

Whose various wealth with lib'ral hand;
By far o'erpaid the parent land.
But though so bright her sun might shine
'Twas quickly hasting to decline,
With feeble rays, too weak t' assuage
The damps that chill the eve of age.
" For states, like men, are doom'd as well
Th' infirmities of age to feel;
And from their different forms of empire,
Are seiz'd with every deep distemper.
Some states high fevers have made head in,
Which nought could cure but copious bleeding;
While others have grown dull and dozy,
Or fix'd in hapless idiocy;
Or turn'd demoniacs, to belabour
Each peaceful habitant and neighbour;
Or, vex'd with hypocondriac fits,
Have broke their strength, and lost their wits.
" Thus now, while hoary years prevail,
Good mother Britain seem'd to fail;
Her back bent, crippled with the weight
Of age and debts, and cares of state:
For debts she ow'd, and those so large
That twice her wealth could not discharge;
And now 'twas thought, so high they'd grown,
She'd break, and come upon the town;*

* *To come upon the town*, that is, to become a public charge. This remark will serve to explain many other illusions to town regulations in the course of this poem.

Join'd both the matrons firm in clan;
So sisters made a better span,
No wonder then, ere this was over,
That she should make her children suffer.
She first, without pretence of reason,
Claim'd right whate'er we had to seize on;
And with determined resolution
To put her claims in execution,
Sent fire and sword, and call'd it, lenity,
Starv'd us, and christen'd it, humanity,
For she, her case grown desperater,
Mistook the plainest things in nature;
Had lost all use of eyes or wits;
Took slav'ry for the bill of rights;
Trembled at whigs and deem'd them foes,
And stopp'd at loyalty her nose;
Styl'd her own children brats snd caitiffs,
And knew not us from th' Indian natives.
" What though with supplicating prayer
We begg'd our lives and goods she'd spare
Not vainer vows, with sillier call,
Elijah's prophets rais'd to Baal;
A worshipp'd stock, of god or goddess,
Had better heard and understood us.
Egyptians at the Nile
[redacted]odile,

) heard them first with kindest ear,
. ate them to reward their pray'r;
I could he talk, as kings can do,
I made as gracious speeches too.
' Thus, spite of pray'rs her schemes pursuing,
e still went on to work our ruin;
mull'd our charters of releases,
nd tore our title deeds in pieces;
hen sign'd her warrants of ejection,
nd gallows rais'd to stretch our necks on;
And on these errands sent in rage,
Her bailiff, and her hangman, Gage,*
And at his heels, like dogs to bait us,
Dispatch'd her *posse comitatus*.
" No state e'er chose a fitter person
To carry such a silly farce on.
As heathen gods in ancient days
Receiv'd at second hand their praise,
Stood imag'd forth in stones and stocks,
And deified in barbers' blocks;

* General Gage, commander in chief of the king's troops in North-America, was appointed in 1773 governor and vice-admiral of Massachusetts, in the room of Hutchinson, who had been the most active agent of the minister, in fomenting the disputes which brought on the war.

The character and conduct of Gage is described with great justice in the subsequent part of this speech of Honeyman.

So Gage was chose to represent
Th' omnipotence of parli'ment.
And as old heroes gain'd, by shifts,
From gods (as poets tell) their gifts;
Our gen'ral, as his actions show,
Gain'd like assistance from below,
By Satan grac'd with full supplies,
From all his magazine of lies:
Yet could his practice ne'er impart
The wit, to tell a lie with art;
Those lies alone are formidable,
Where artful truth is mix'd with fable,
But Gage has bungled oft so vilely,
No soul could credit lies so silly,
Outwent all faith and stretch'd beyond
Credulity's extremest bound.
Whence plain it seems, though Satan once
O'erlook'd with scorn each brainless dunce,
And, blund'ring brutes in Eden shunning,
Chose out the serpent for his cunning;
Of late he is not half so nice,
Nor pick'd assistants, 'cause they're wise.
For had he stood upon perfection,
His present friends had lost th' election,

"Yet fools are often dang'rous en'mies,
As meanest reptiles are most ven'mous;
Nor e'er could Gage, by craft or prowess,
Have done a whit more mischief to us,
Since he began th' unnatural war,
The work his master sent him for.

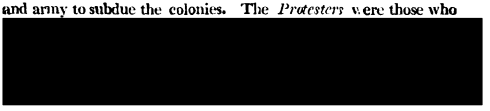
"And are there in this free-born land,
Among ourselves, a venal band,
A dastard race, who long have sold
Their souls and consciences for gold;
Who wish to stab their country's vitals,
If they might heir surviving titles,
With joy behold our mischief brewing,
Insult and triumph in our ruin?
Priests, who, if Satan should set down
To make a bible of his own,
Would gladly for the sake of mitres,
Turn his inspir'd and sacred writers;
Lawyers, who, should he wish to prove
His title t' his old seat above,
Would, if his cause he'd give e'm fees in
Brings writs of *entry sur disseisin*,
Plead for him boldly at the session,
And hope to put him in possession;
Merchants, who, for his kindly aid,
Would make him partner in their trade,
Hang out their signs with goodly show,

:re are; and shining with pointing finger
ks out the addressers and protesters;*
om following down the stream of fate,
tempts ineffable await,
. public infamy, forlorn,
ad hate, and everlasting scorn."
s thus he spake, our 'Squire M'Fingal
e to his partizans a signal.
quicker roll'd the waves to land,
en Moses wav'd his potent wand,
with more uproar, than the Tories
up a gen'ral route in chorus;
gh'd, hiss'd, hemm'd, murmur'd, groan'd
jeer'd:
iorius now could scarce be hear'd.
muse amid th' increasing roar,
ld not distinguish one word more;

Though she sat by, in firm record
To take in short-hand every word;
As ancient muses wont, to whom
Old bards for depositions come;
Who must have writ 'em, for how else
Could they each speech *verbatim* tell us?
And though some readers of romances
Are apt to strain their tortur'd fancies,
And doubt when lovers all alone
Their sad soliloques do groan,
Grieve many a page with no one near 'em,
And nought but rocks and groves to hear 'em,
What sprite infernal could have tattled
And told the authors all they prattled;
Whence some weak minds have made objection,
That what they scribbled must be fiction:
'Tis false, for while the lovers spoke,
The muse was by with table-book;
And, lest some blundering might ensue,
Echo stood clerk, and kept the cue.
And though the speech bent' worth a groat,
As usual, 'tisn't the author's fault,
But error merely of the prater,
Who should have talk'd to th' purpose better,
Which full excuse my critic brothers
May help me out as well as others;
And 'tis design'd though here it lurk,

Inscrib'd with "*Beelzebub and Co.*"
And Judges, who would list his pages,
For proper liveries and wages;
And who as humble cringe and bow
To all his mortal servants now;
There are; and shame with pointing guestures,
Marks out the addressers and protesters;*
Whom following down the stream of fate,
Contempts ineffable await,
And public infamy, forlorn,
Dread hate, and everlasting scorn."
As thus he spake, our 'Squire M'Fingal
Gave to his partizans a signal.
Not quicker roll'd the waves to land,
When Moses wav'd his potent wand,
Nor with more uproar, than the Tories
Sat up a gen'ral route in chorus;
Laugh'd, hiss'd, hemm'd, murmur'd, groan'd and jeer'd:
Honorius now could scarce be hear'd.
Our muse amid th' increasing roar,
Could not distinguish one word more;

* The *Addressers* were those who addressed general Gates with expressions of gratitude and attachment, on his arrival with a fleet and army to subdue the colonies. The *Protesters* were those who



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[illegible]ve writ 'em, for how else
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[illegible] to strain their tortur'd fancies,
[illegible] doubt whether lovers all alone
[illegible]
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But error merely of the prater,
Who should have talk'd to th' purpose better,
Which full excuse my critic brothers
May help me out as well as others;
And 'tis design'd though here it lurk,

, 'midst applauding tories,
ed wrath upon Honorious.
ıe, "'Tis wond'rous what strange stuff
gs' heads are compounded of;
orce of logic cannot pierce,
ogistic *carte & tierce*,
ight of scripture or of reason
to make the least impression.
eding what ye rais'd contest on,
ıte, and beg or steal the question;
when your boasted arguings fail,
ght leave all reas'ning off, to rail.
not our high-church clergy made it
ar from scriptures, which ye credit,
right divine from heaven was lent
[illegible]. that is, the parliament,
[illegible] and teaze,

Id * St. Anth'ny 'monst the pig
hang'd not half so many viciou
Austin, when he preach'd to fishe
ho throng'd to hear, the legend tel
Were edified and wagg'd their tails;
But scarce you'd prove it if you tried
That e'er one whig was edified.
Have ye not heard from † parson Wal
Much dire presage of many a halter?
What warnings had ye of your duty
From our old rev'rend ‡ Sam. Auchm
From priests of all degrees and metre
Your fag-end man poor § parson Pet
Have not our Cooper and our Seabur
Sung hymns, like Barak and old Debo
Prov'd all intrigues to set you free,
Rebellion 'gainst *the pow'rs that be*;
Brought over many a scripture text
That us'd to wink at rebel sects:
Coax'd wayward ones to favor regent
Or paraphraz'd them to obedience;
Prov'd ev'ry king, ev'n those confest

it
it,
to

* "The stories of St. Anthony and his pig, an
preaching to fishes, are told in the popish legends."
† "High-church clergyman, at Boston."
‡ "High-church clergyman, at New-York."
§ "Peters, a tory clergyman in Connecticut, who
himself detestable by his inimical, conduct abou

,
sons simflar, we
ophet was ordained of old;)
lay ordination valid
ies all sanctified and hallow'd,
; patent out when Heav'n has sign'd it;
starts up straight the Lord's anointed;
extreme unction, that can cleanse
n penitent from deadly sins,
ke them run glib, when oil'd by priest,
ie heavenly road, like wheels new greas'd,
erve them like shoe-ball, for defences
Gainst wear and tear of consciences;
o king's anointment cleans by times,
Like fuller's earth, all spots of crimes;
For future knav'ries gives commissions,
Like papists sinning under licence,
ordain'd the origin,
d sin;

A without pain and sin and folly,
Man ne'er were blest, or wise, or holy;
And we should * thank the Lord 'tis so,
As authors grave wrote long ago.
Now heav'n its issues never brings
Without the means, and these are kings;
And he who blames w when they announce ills,
Would counteract the eternal councils
As when the Jews, a murm'ring race,
By constant grumblings fell from grace.
Heaven taught them first to know their distance,
By famine, slav'ry and Philistines;
Whence these could no repentance bring,
In wrath it sent them last a king,
So nineteen, 'tis believ'd, in twenty
Of modern kings, for plagues are sent ye;
Nor can your cavillers pretend,
But that they answer well their end.
Tis yours to yield to their command,
As rods in Providence's hand:
And if it means to send you pain,
You turn your noses up in vain:
Your only way's in peace to bear it,
And make necessity a merit.
Hence sure perdition must await
The man who rises 'gainst the state,

* ff See the modern metaphysical divinity."

ho meets at once the damning sentence,
/ithout one loop-hole for repentance;
'en though he gain'd the royal see,
And rank among *the pow'rs that be*:
For hell is theirs, the scripture shows,
Whoe'er *the pow'rs that be* oppose,
And all those pow'rs (I am clear that 'tis so)
Are damn'd forever, *ex officio*.
" Thus far our clergy; but 'tis true,
We lack'd not earthly reas'ners too.
Had I the * poet's brazen lungs,
As sound-board to his hundred tongues,
I could not half the scribblers muster
That swarm'd round Rivington † in cluster,
Assemblies, councilmen, forsooth;
Brush, Cooper, Wilkins, Chandler, Booth:
Yet all their arguments and sap'ence
You did not value at three half-pence.
Did not our Massachusettensis‡
For your conviction strain his senses?
Scrawl every moment he could spare,

* " Virgil's Æneid, 6th book, line 625."

† The editor of the Royal Gazette in New-York; a answered very well to its title, it being filled with tions and falsehoods, which are deemed necessary to royalty, in any country where printing is tolerated.

[redacted] course of essays, under the signature of

From cards and barbers and the fair;
Show clear as sun in noon-day heavens,
You did not feel a single grievance;
Demonstrate all your opposition
Sprung from the * eggs of foul sedition;
Swear he had seen the nest she lay in,
And knew how long she had been sitting;
Could tell exact what strength of heat is
Requir'd to hatch out her committees;
What shapes they take, and how much longer's
The space before they grow t' a congress?
New white-wash'd Hutchinson, and varnish'd
Our Gage, who'd got a little tarnish'd;
Made 'em new masks in time, no doubt,
For Hutchinson's was quite worn out;
And while he muddled all his head,
You did not heed a word he said.
Did not our grave § judge Sewall hit
The summit of newspaper wit?
Fill'd every leaf of every paper,

* "Committees of correspondence are the foulest and most venemous serpents that ever issued from the eggs of sedition," &c. Massachusettensis.

§ "Attorney-general of Massachusetts Bay, a judge of admiralty, Gage's chief advertiser and proclamation-maker, author of a farce called the Americans Roused, and of a great variety of essays on the ministerial side, in the Boston newspapers."

Of Mills, and Hicks, and Mother Draper;
Draw Proclamations, works of toil,
In true sublime, of scare-crow style;
Write farces too, 'gainst sons of freedom,
All for your good, and none would read 'em;
Denounc'd damnation on their frenzy,
Who died in whig impenitency;
Affirm'd that heav'n would lend us aid,
As all our Tory writers said;
And calculated so its kindness,
He told the moment when it join'd us.
"'Twas then belike," Honorius cried,
"When you the public fast defied,
Refus'd to heav'n to raise a prayer,
Because you'd no connections there:
And since with rev'rend hearts and faces,
To governors you'd made addresses,
In them, who made you tories, seeing
You liv'd and mov'd and had your being;
Your humble vows you would not breathe
To pow'rs you'd no acquaintance with.
"As for your fasts," replied our 'Squire,
"What circumstance could fasts require?
[redacted]

d you ever get by fasting?
hat the gains that men arise
heirs and off'rings to the skies?
nav'n reward with posts and fees,
his us tea, as consignees,*
pensions, sal'ries, places, bribes,
oose us judges, clerks, or scribes?
commissions in its gift,
h to serve us at a lift?
cts of parliament there made,
ry on the placeman's trade;
it pass'd a single bill
us plunder whom we will;
ok our list of placemen all over;
av'n appoint our chief judge Oliver,
at high bench with ignoramus;
its councils by mandamus?
ade that wit of water-gruel,
ge of admiralty, Sewall?
ere they not mere earthly struggles,
ais'd up Murray, say, and Ruggles?
av'n send down, our pains to med'cine,

ng to the famous cargo of tea, which was sunk in Bos-
r, the consignees of which were the tools of general

oper emblem of his genius."

election p...
Marshfield blund'rer, Nat. ...
ıd it any hand in serving
oring, Pepp'rell, Browne, or Erving?
Yet we've some saints, the very thing,
:'ll pit against the best you'll bring:
r, can the strongest fancy paint
nan Hutchinson a greater saint?
Was there a parson us'd to pray
\t times more reg'lar—twice a day—
As folks exact have dinners got,
Whether they've appetites or not?
Was there a zealot more alarming
'Gainst public vice to hold forth sermon,
Or fix'd at church, whose inward motion
Roll'd up his eyes with more devotion?
What puritan could ever pray
... 'twas'rer Gray,

the truth defied,†
e a line,
o undermine;
then were by,
ge all a lie?
ie seal'd
e acts repeal'd;
England's shore,
o pass more!
fects we grant,
saint,
tues must with ease
crimes as these:
scripture spy
nent, "thou shalt lie;"
as who can tell!)
sure, ye keep so well."
for lies and promise-breaking
in such a taking;
e know and teach,
rivilege of speech;
magna charta,
human race is party;

n of falsehood in governor Hutchinson, here al-
cious little history. It is told at large in the Re-
blished by Almon, vol. 1.

Whence children first, as David says,
Lay claim to't in their earliest days;
The only stratagem in war
Our gen'rals have occasion for;
The only freedom of the press
Our politicians need in peace:
And 'tis a shame you wish t' abridge us
Of these our darling privileges.
Thank heav'n, your shot has miss'd the
For lying is no sin, or shame.
"As men last wills may change aga
Though drawn in name of God, amen
Besure they must have much the mo
O'er promises as great a pow'r,
Which, made in haste, with small i
So much the more will need correc
And when they've careless spoke,
Have right to look 'em o'er and m
Revise their vows, or change the
By way of codicil annex'd,
Turn out a promise that was ba
And put a better in its place.
So Gage of late agreed, you k
To let the Boston people go
Yet when he saw, 'gainst tro
They were the only guards

ll that Satan of a Putnam,[1]
breaking in to maul and mutin him:
too much wit such leagues t' observe,
shut them in again to starve.
So Moses writes, when female Jews
lade oaths and vows unfit for use,
heir parents then might act them free
rom that conscientious tyranny:
nd shall men feel that spiritual bondage
or ever, when they grow beyond age:
or have pow'r their own oaths to change?
think the tale were very strange.
ll vows bind but the stout and strong,
nd let go women weak and young:
ets inclose the larger crew,
nd let the smaller fry go through:
sides, the whigs have all been set on,
he tories to affright and threaten,
ll Gage, amidst his trembling fits,
as hardly kept him in his wits:
nd though he spoke with art and finesse,
'is said beneath *duress per minas*.

[1] General Putnam of Connecticut, who had gained great reputa
n as a partisan officer, in the war before last, came forward
activity in the beginning of the war of independence; but
age and infirmities obliged him soon to quit the field.

For we're in peril of our souls
From feathers, tar, and lib'rty-poles:
And vows extorted are not binding
In law, and so not worth the minding.
For we have in this hurly-burly
Sent off our consciences on furlough,
Thrown our religion o'er in form,
Our ship to lighten in the storm.
Nor need we blush your whigs before,
If we've no virtue, you've no more.

"Yet black with sins, would stain a mitre,
Rail ye at crimes by ten tints whiter
And, stuff'd with choler atrabilious,
Insult us here for peccadilloes!
While all your vices run so high
That mercy scarce could find supply:
While, should your offer to repent,
You'd need more fasting days than Lent,
More groans than haunted church-yard vall
And more confessions than broad-alleys.*
I'll show you all at fitter time,
Th' extent and greatness of your crime,

* Alluding to church discipline, where a person is oblig
stand in the aisle of the church, called the broad alley, name
offence of which he has been guilty, and ask pardon of his
[redacted]

And here demonstrate to your face,
Your want of virtue, as of grace,
Convinc'd from topics old and recent:
But thus much must suffice at present.
To the after portion of the day,
I leave what more remains to say;
When I've good hope you'll all appear,
More fitted and prepar'd to hear,
And griev'd for all your vile demeanour:
But now 'tis time t' adjourn for dinner."

END OF THE FIRST CANTO.

CANTO SECOND.

THE TOWN-MEETING, P. M.

THE sun who never stops to dine,
Two hours had pass'd the mid-way line:
And driving at his usual rate,
Lash'd on his downward car of state;
And now expir'd the short vacation,
And dinner done in epic fashion:
While all the crew beneath the trees,
Eat pocket-pies or bread and cheese:
Nor shall we, like old Homer, care
To versify the bill of fare.
For now each party, feasted well,
[illegible] sound of bell

higs, attend, and hear affrighted,
ies whereof ye stand indicted.
, and follies past all compass,
ove you guilty, or *non compos*.
the verdict to your senses,
ury of your consciences:
a, though they're neither good nor true
yet convict you and your crew.
rateful sons! a factious band,
t rise against your parent land!
viper race, that burst in strife,
e welcome womb that gave you life,
ear with sharp fangs and forked tongue,
h' indulgent bowels, whence you sprung:
And scorn the debt of obligation,
You justly owe the British nation,
Which, since you cannot pay, your crew
Affect to swear 'twas never due.
"Did not the deeds of England's primate*
First drive your father's to this climate,
Whom jails, and fines, and ev'ry ill
Forc'd to their good against their will?

* The persecutions of the English church under archbishop Laud, are well known to have been the cause of the peopling of New-England.

Whom her connex
Did they not then, distrest in war,
Send gen'rals to your help from far,
Whose aid you own'd in terms less ha
And thankfully o'erpaid your quota?
Say, at what period did they grudge
To send you governor or judge,
With all their missionary crew,†
To teach you law and gospel too?

* The war of 1775, between the English an
doubtless excited by circumstances foreign to
colonies which now form the United States.
ever, paid more than their proportion of t
balance was repaid by the British governme

† The missionaries were clergymen, ordai
London, and settled in America. Those in
were generally attached to the royal cause;

[illegible] all Salons in the nation,
Clip you on in population,
Con'd their bishops to surrender,
All made their priests a legal tender,
Who only ask'd, in surplice clad,
The simple tythe of all you had:
And now to keep all Knaves in awe,
Have sent their troops t' establish law,
And with gunpowder, fire, and ball,
Reform your people one and all.
Yet, when their insolence and pride
Have anger'd all the world beside,
When fear and want at once invade,
Can you refuse to lend them aid;
And rather risque your heads in fight,
Than gratefully throw in your mite?
Can they for debts make satisfaction,
Should they dispose their realm by auction;
And sell off Britain's goods and land all
To France and Spain by inch of candle;
Shall good king George, with want oppress,?
Insert his name in bankrupt list,
And shut up shop, like failing merchant,
That fears the bailiffs should make search in't
With poverty shall princes strive,
And nobles lack whereon to live:

u pick a p--
t have on hand, as well deserving,
n thousand bastards left for starving:
ıl can you now, with conscience clear,
:fuse them an assylum here?
: not maintain, in manner fitting,
hese genuine sons of mother Britain?
' evade these crimes of blackest grain,
ou prate of liberty in vain,
ınd strive to hide your vile designs,
Vith terms abstruse, like school-divines,
"Your boasted patriotism is scarce,
'our country's love is but a farce:
And after all the proofs you bring,
We tories know there's no such thing:
Our English writers of great fame
Prove public virtue but a name.

only principle of action:
: loadstone, whose attracting tether
:ps the politic world together:
d, spite of all your double-dealing,
e tories know 'tis so, by feeling.
" Who heeds your babbling of transmitting
reedom to brats of your begetting,
r will proceed as though there were a tie,
r obligation to posterity?
We get 'em, bear 'em, breed and nurse:
What has post'rity done for us,
That we, lest they their rights should lose,
Should trust our necks to gripe of noose?
" And who believes you will not run?
You're cowards, every mother's son:
And should you offer to deny,
We've witnesses to prove it by.
Attend th' opinion first, as referee,
Of your old gen'ral, stout Sir Jeffery,
Who swore that with five thousand foot
He'd rout you all, and in pursuit,
Run through the land as easily,
As camel through a needle's eye.
Did not the valiant colonel Grant
Against your courage make his slant,
Affirm your universal failure
In every principle of valor,

And swear no scamp'rers e'er could match you
So swift, a bullet scarce could catch you?
And will ye not confess in this,
A judge most competent he is,
Well skil'd on running to decide,
As what himself has often tried?
'Twould not, methinks, be labor lost,
If you'd sit down and count the cost;
And ere you call your yankies out,
First think what work you've set about.
Have ye not rous'd his force to try on,
That grim old beast the British lion?
And know you not that at a sup
He's large enough to eat you up?
Have you survey'd his jaws beneath,
Drawn inventories of his teeth,
Or have you weigh'd in even ballance
His strength and magnitude of talons?
His roar would turn your boasts to fear,
As easily as sour small-beer,
And make your feet from dreadful fray,
By [illegible]ve instinct, run away.
Britain, depend on't, will take on her
T' assert her dignity and honor,
And [illegible]e she'd loose your share of pelf,

For has not North declar'd they fight
To gain substantial rev'nue by't,
Deni'd he'd ever deign to treat,
Till on your knees, and at his feet?
And feel you not a trifling ague,
From Van's *delenda est Carthago?* *
For this now, Britain has come to't
Think you she has not means to do't?
Has she not set to work all engines
To spirit up the native Indians,
Send on your backs a savage band,
With each a hatchet in his hand,
T'amuse themselves with scalping-knives,
And butcher children and your wives;
That she may boast again with vanity,
Her English national humanity?
For now, in its primeval sense,
This term, *human'ty*, comprehends
All things of which, on this side hell,
The *human mind* is capable;
And thus 'tis well by writers sage,
(Applied to Britain and to Gage.)
And on this work to raise allies
She sent her duplicate of Guys,

* Alluding, as is supposed, to a speech in the British parliament, which "delenda est Carthago" was applied to America.

To drive at diff'rent parts at once on,
Her stout Guy Carleton and Guy Johnson:
To each of whom, to send again ye,
Old Guy of Warwick were a ninny:
Though the dun-cow he fell'd in war,
These kill-cows are his betters far.
"And has she not assay'd her notes,
To rouse your slaves to cut your throats,
Sent o'er ambassadors with guineas,
To bribe your blacks in Carolinas?
And has not Gage, her missionary,
Turn'd many an Afric slave t' a tory
And made th' Amer'can bishop's see grow
By many a new-converted Negro?
As friends to gov'rnment did not he
Their slaves at Boston late set free?
Enlist them all in black parade,
Set off with regimental red?
And were they not accounted then
Among his very bravest men?
And when such means she stoops to take,
Think you she is not wide awake:
As Eliphaz' good man in Job,
Own'd num'rous allies through the globe:
H d brought the * stones along the street

* The stones and all the elements with thee

› ratify a cov'nant meet,
nd ev'ry beas , from lice to lions
o join in league of strict alliance :
las she not cring'd in spite of pride,
for like assistance, far and wide !
Was there a creature so despis'd,
Its aid she has not sought and priz'd !
Till all this formidable league rose
Of Indians, British troops and Negroes :
And can you break these triple bands,
By all your workmanship of hands!"
" Sir," quoth Honorius, " we presume,
You guess from past feats, what's to come :
And from the mighty deeds of Gage,
Foretel how fierce the war he'll wage.
You, doubtless, recollected here
The annals of his first great year ;
While wearing out the tories' patience,
He spent his breath in proclamations ;
While all his mighty noise and vapor
Was us'd in wrangling upon paper ;
And boasted military feats
Clos'd in the straining of his wits ;

Wild beasts their savage temper shall forget,
And for a firm alliance with thee treat.
Blackmore's Paraphrase of Jo

While troops in Boston commons plac'd
Laid nought but quires of paper waste
While strokes alternate stun'd the nation,
Protest, address, and proclamation;
And speech met speec ,fib clash'd with fib,
And Gage still answer'd squib for squib.
" Though this not all his time was lost on
He fortifi'd the town of Boston;
Built breast-works that might lend assistanc
To keep the patriots at a distance;
(For howsoe'er the rogues might scoff;
He lik'd them best, tho farthest off;)
Of mighty use and help to aid
His courage when he felt afraid
And whence right off, in manful station,
He'd boldly pop his proclamation.
Our hearts must in our bosoms freeze
At such heroic deeds as these."
" Vain," quoth our Squire, " you'll find
sneer
At Gage's first triumphant year;
For providence, dispos'd to teaze us,
Can use what instruments it pleases.
To pay a tax, at Peter's wish,
His chief cashier was once a fish;

A goose plac'd century on his station,
Preserv'd old Rome from desolation;
An English bishop's * cur of late
Disclos'd rebellions 'gainst the state;
So frogs croak'd Pharaoh to Repentance,
And lice revers'd the threat'ning sentence:
And heav'n can ruin you at pleasure,
By our scorn'd Gage as well as Cesar.
Yet did our hero in these days
Pick up some laurel wreaths of praise.
And as the statuary of Seville
Made his crack'd saint an exc'llent devil;
So though our war few triumphs brings,
We gain'd great fame in other things.
Did not our troops show much discerning
And skill, your various arts in learning?
Outwent they not each native noodle
By far, in playing Yankey-Doodle?†

* "See bishop Atterberry's trial."

† *Yankey-Doodle*, as M'Fingal here relates, was a native air of New-England, and was often played in derision by the British troops, particularly on their march to Lexington. Afterwards the captive army of Burgoyne was obliged to march to this tune in ceremony of piling their arms, at Saratoga. In the course of war, it became a favorite air of Liberty like the present *Ca Ira* in France. It is remarkable, that after taking of the Bastille, and by the introduction of *Ca Ira*, the Paris guards played *Yankey-Doo*

uch a dance as ne'er was ...
wenty miles on end led down?*
there a yankey trick you knew,
y did not play as well as you?
they not lay their heads together,
l gain your art to tar and feather,
ıen Col'nel Nesbitt through the town
triumph bore the country-clown?
ı, what a glorious work to sing
he vet'ran troops of Britain's king.
ıdvent'ring for th' heroic laurel,
Vith bag of feathers and tar-barrel!
'o paint the cart where culprit's ride,
ınd Nesbitt marching at its side,†

* This is lord Percy's modern chevy-chace; in which his lor'
† From Concord to Boston.

eat executioner and proud,
ke hangman high on Holborn road;
ad o'er the bright triumphal car
he waving ensigns of the war!
as when a triumph Rome decreed,
for great Calig'la's valiant deed,
Who had subdued the British seas,
By gath'ring cockles from their base—
In pompous car the conqu'ror bore
His captiv'd scallops from the shore,

immortalized himself by executing this plan to promote the quarrel, and give the army an opportunity of their desired revenge.

A soldier, according to his directions, sold an old rusty musket to a countryman for three dollars, who brought vegetables to market. This could be no crime in the market-man, who had an undoubted right to purchase, and bear arms. He was, notwithstanding, immediately seized by Nesbitt, and conveyed to the guard-house, where he was confined all night. Early the next morning they stripped him naked, covered him with warm tar, and then with feathers, and conducted him to the north end of the town, then to the south end, and as far as liberty-tree, where they dismissed the man, through fear of the people, (who by this time had collected in large numbers,) and made a retreat to their barracks

The party consisted of about thirty grenadiers of the 47th regiment with fixed bayonets, 20 drums and fifes playing the rogues march, headed by Nesbitt, with a drawn sword.

The magistrates of the town waited on general Gage with a complaint of this outrage; he pretended disapprobation; but took no steeps to censure the conduct of Nesbitt, or to do justice to the man who had suffered the violence.

Ovations gain'd his crabs for fetching,
And mighty feats of oyster catching:
O'er yankees thus the war begun,
They tarr'd and triumph'd over one—
And fought and boasted through the season,
With might as great and equal reason.
"Yet thus though skill'd in vict'ry toils,
They boast, not unexpert in wiles.
For gain'd they not an equal fame in
The art of secresy and scheming—
In stratagems show'd mighty force,
And moderniz'd the Trojan horse—
Play'd o'er again those tricks Ulyssean
In their fam'd Salem expedition?
For as that horse, the poets tell ye
Bore Grecian armies in his belly—
Till, their full reck'ning run with joy
Their Sinon midwif'd them in Troy:
So in one ship was Leslie bold
Cramm'd with three hundred men in hold,
Equipp'd for enterprize and sail,
Like Jonas stow'd in womb of whale.
To Marblehead in depth of night,
The cautious vessel wing'd her flight.
And now the sabbath's silent day
Call'd all your yankies off to pray—

Remov'd each prying jealous neighbour,
The scheme and vessel fell in labour—
Forth from its hollow womb pour, hast'ly
The myrmidons of col'nel Leslie:
Not thicker o,er the blacken'd strand
The * frogs' detatchment rush'd to land,
Equipp'd by onset or surprise
To storm the entrenchment of the mice.
Through Salem straight without delay,
The bold battalion took its way,
March'd o'er a bridge in open sight
Of sev'ral yankies arm'd for fight,
Then without loss of time, or men,
Veer'd round for Boston back again;
And found so well their projects thrive,
That ev'ry soul got home alive.

" Thus Gage's arms did fortune bless
With triumph, safety, and success:
But mercy is, without dispute,
His first and darling attribute:
So great it far outwent and conquer'd
His military skill at Concord.
There, when the war he choose to wage
Shone the benevolence of Gage:

* " See Homer's battle of the frogs and

Sent troops to that ill-omen'd place
On errands mere of special grace,
And all the work he choose them for
Was to * prevent a civil war:
And for that purpose he projected
The only certain way t' effect it,
To take your powder, stores, and arms,
And all your means of doing harms:
As prudent folks take knives away,
Lest children cut them selves at play.
And yet, though this was all his scheme,
This war you still will charge on him;
And though he oft has swore, and said it,
Stick close to facts, and give no credit.
Think you he wish'd you'd brave and beard him
Why, 'twas the very thing that scar'd him.
He'd rather you should all have run,
Than staid to fire a single gun.
And for the civil war you lament,
Faith, you yourselves must take the blame in
For had you then as he intended,
Giv'n up your arms, it must have ended.
Since that's no war, each mortal knows,
Where one side only gives the blows,

* answer to governor Trumbull.

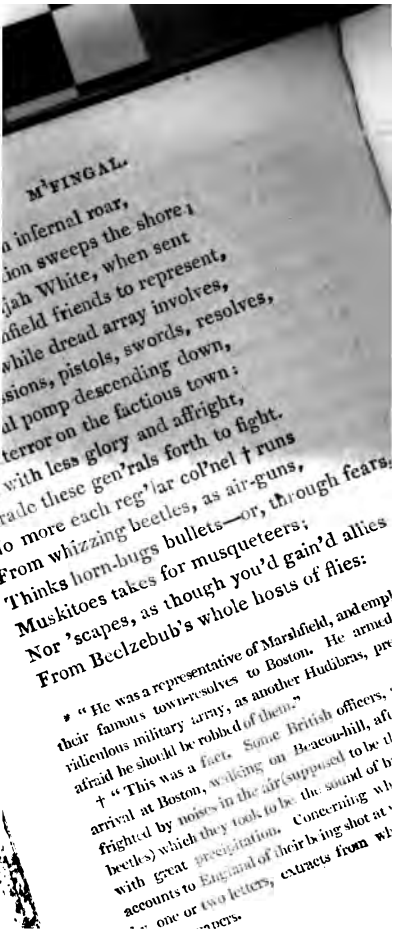
And th' other bears 'em; on reflection,
The most you'll call it, is correction.
Nor could the contest have gone higher,
If you had ne'er return'd the fire,
But when you shot and not before,
It then commenc'd a civil war.
Else Gage, to end this controversy,
Had but corrected you in mercy;
Whom mother Britain, old and wise,
Sent o'er the col'nies to chastise;
Command obedience on their peril
Of ministerial whip and ferule;
And since they ne'er could come of age,
Govern'd and tutor'd them by Gage.
Still more, that this was all their errand,
The army's conduct makes apparent.
What though at Lexington you can say
They kill'd a few they did not fancy,
At Concord then, with manful popping,
Discharg'd a round, the ball to open;
Yet when they saw, your rebel-rout
Determin'd still to hold it out,
Did they not show their love to peace,
And wish, that discord straight might ceas
Demonstrate, and by proofs uncommon,
Their orders were, to injure no man?

:arful if they stand to sport,
ight by accident be hurt,
y'd themselves with speed away
venty miles in half a day—
till their legs were grown so weary,
'd scarce suffice their weight to carry?
ice Gage extols, from gen'ral hearsay,
t great activ'ty of lord Percy,
se brave example led them on,
spirithed the troops to run;
now may boast as royal levees,
nkey chace worth forty chevys,
you as vile as they were kind,
su'd like tigers close behind;
d on them at your will, and shut
: town: as though you'd starve them out;

& with parade prepost'rous * hedg'd,
fect to hold them there besieg'd;
Though Gage, whom proclamations call
Your gov'nor and vice-admiral,
Whose pow'r gubernetorial still
Extends as far as Bunker's-Hill—
Whose admiralty reaches clever,
Near half a mile up Mystic river.
Whose naval force commands the seas,
Can run away whene'er he please)
Scar'd troops of tories into town,
And burnt their hay and houses down;
And menac'd Gage, unless he'd flee,
To drive him headlong to the sea;
As once, to faithless Jews a sign,
The de'el, turn'd hog-reeve, did the swine.
" But now your triumphs all are o'er,
For see, from Britain's angry shore,
With mighty host of valor, join
Her Howe, her Clinton, and Burgoyne.
As comets through th' affrighted skies
Pour baleful ruin, as they rise,

* "And with a preposterous parade of military arrangement, they affect to hold the army besieged."

Gage's last grand proclamation.



M'FINGAL.

a infernal roar,
ion sweeps the shore:
ijah White, when sent
afield friends to represent,
while dread array involves,
sions, pistols, swords, resolves,
al pomp descending down,
terror on the factious town:
t with less glory and affright,
arade these gen'rals forth to fight.
No more each reg'lar col'nel † runs
From whizzing beetles, as air-guns,
Thinks horn-bugs bullets—or, through fears,
Muskitoes takes for musqueteers;
Nor 'scapes, as though you'd gain'd allies
From Beelzebub's whole hosts of flies:

* "He was a representative of Marshfield, and emp
their famous town-resolves to Boston. He armed
ridiculous military array, as another Hudibras, pre
afraid he should be robbed of them."
† "This was a fact. Some British officers,
arrival at Boston, walking on Beacon-hill, aft
frighted by noises in the air (supposed to be t
beetles) which they took to be the sound of b
with great precipitation. Concerning wh
accounts to England of their being shot at,
one or two letters, extracts from wh
papers.

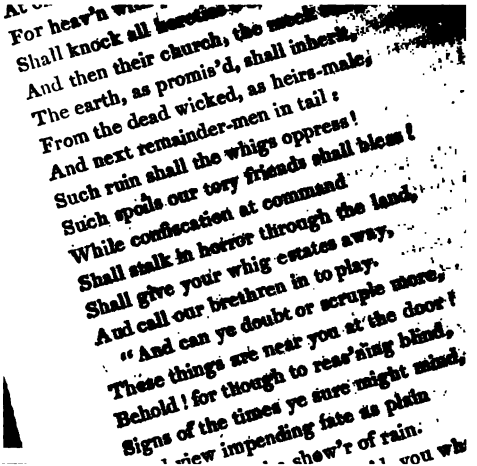
No bug their warlike hearts appals,
They better know the sound of balls.
I hear the din of battle bray,
The trump of horror marks its way.
I see afar the sack of cities,
The gallows strung with whig committees;
Your moderators trick'd like vermin,
And gate-posts grac'd with heads of chairmen;
Your gen'rals for wave-off'ring hanging,
And ladders throng'd with priests haranguing.
What pill'ries glad the tories' eyes
With patriot-ears for sacrifice!
What whipping-posts your chosen race
Admit successive in embrace,
While each bears off his crimes, alack!
Like Bunyan's pilgrim, on his back!
Where then, when tories scarce get clear,
Shall whigs and congresses appear?
What rocks and mountains shall you call
To wrap you over with their fall,
And your heads, in these sad weathers,
From fire and sword, and tar and feathers!
For lo, with British troops, tar-bright,
Again our Nesbitt heaves in sight!
He comes, he comes, your lines to storm,
And rig your troops in uniform!

" Lo, where our mighty navy [illegible]-
estruction on her canvas wings;
/hile through the deeps her potent thunder
.all sound th' alarm to rob and plunder!
s Phoebus first (so Homer speaks)
/hen he march'd out to attack the Greeks,
Gainst mules sent forth his arrows fatal,
.nd slew th' auxiliaries, their cattle;
o where our ships shall stretch the keel,
What conquer'd oxen shall they steal!
What heroes, rising from the deep,
nvade your marshall'd hosts of sheep!
)isperse whole troops of horse, and pressing,
Take cows surrender at discretion:
Attack your hens, like Alexanders,
\nd reg'ments rout of geese and ganders;
In where united arms combine,

Neatly from th' unequal fray
As many a woman run away!
And can ye doubt, whene'er we please,
Our chiefs shall boast such deeds as these?
Have we not chiefs, transcending far
The old fam'd *thunderbolts of war*;
Beyond the brave romantic fighters,
Styl'd *swords of death* by novel-writers?
Nor in romancing ages e'er rose
So terrible a tier of heroes.
From Gage, what flashes fright the waves!
How loud a blunderbuss is Graves! *
How Newport dreads the blust'ring sallies,
That thunder from our pop-gun, Wallace! *
While noise, in formidable strains,
Spouts from his thimble-full of brains!
I see you sink with aw'd surprise!
I see our tory brethren rise!
And as the sect'ries Sandemanian,†
Our friends, describe their wish'd millennum

* Admiral Graves and captain Wallace lay before the to Newport a long time, and by their "deeds above heroic," meri the praises that the discerning M'Fingal has here bestowed them.

† The religious sect of Sandemanians have singular ideas millennium. Their political religion during the revolutio tyrism.



Alarm'd old women, all around,
By fearful noises under ground;
While earth, for many dozen leagues,
Groan'd with her dismal load of whigs?
Was their a meteor far and wide
But muster'd on the tory-side?
A star, maglin, that has not bent
Its aspect for the parliament,
Foreboding your defeat and misery;
As once they fought against old Sisera?
Was there a cloud that spread the skies,
But bore our armies of allies?
While dreadful hosts of fire stood forth
Mid baleful glimm'rings from the north;*
Which plainly shews which part they join'd,
For North's the minister, ye mind;
Whence oft your quibblers in gazettes
On *northern blasts* have strain'd their wits;
And think ye not the clouds know how
To make the pun as well as you?
Did there arise an apparition,
But grinn'd forth ruin to sedition?

* It is said to be a fact, that in America, about the commencement of the war, the aurora borealis appeared more frequently than usual, and assumed more singular appearances.

A Death watch, but has join'd our leagu
And click'd destruction to the whigs?
Heard ye not, when the wind was fair,
At night, our or'tors in the air,
That, loud as admiralty libel,
Read awful chapters from the bible,
And death and deviltry denounc'd?
And told you, how you'd soon be trounc
I see, to join our conqu'ring side,
Heav'n, earth and hell, at once ally'd!
See from your overthrow and end,
The tories' paradise ascend;
Like that new world that claims its statio
Beyond the final conflagration!
I see the day, that lots your share
In utter darkness and dispair;
The day of joy, when North, our lord,
His faithful servants shall reward!
No tory then shall set before him
Small wish of 'squire, or justice Quorum;
But, 'fore his unmistaken eyes
See lordship, posts and pensions rise.
Awake to gladness, then, ye tories,
Th' unbounded prospect lies before us:
The pow'r display'd in Gage's banners,

And o'er our happy, conquer'd ground
Dispense estates and titles round.
Beho'd the world will stare at new sets
Of home-made * earls, in Massachusetts;
Admire, array'd in ducal tassels,
Your Ol'vers, Hutchinsons and vassals;
See, join'd in ministerial work,
His grace of Albany and York!
What lordships from each carv'd estate,
On our New-York assembly wait!
What titled † Jauncys, Gales and Billops;
Lord Brush, lord Wilkins, and lord Phillips;
In wide-sleev'd pomp of godly guise,
What solemn rows of bishops rise!
Aloft a card'nal's hat is spread
O'er punster ‡ Cooper's rev'rend head!
In Vardell, that poet'c zealot,
I view a lawn-bedizen'd prelate!
While mitres fall, as 'tis their duty,
On heads of Chandler and Auchmuty!

* See Hutchinson's and Oliver's letters.

† Members of the ministerial majority in the New-York assembly; Wilkins, a noted writer.

‡ President Cooper, a notorious punster; Vardell author of some poetical satires on the sons of liberty in New-York, and royal professor in king's college; Chandler and Auchmuty, high-church and tory writers of the clerical order.

Knight, viscounts, baron, shall ye meet,
As thick as pavements in the street!
Ev'n I, perhaps, heav'n speed my claim,
Shall fix a *sir* before my name.
For titles all our foreheads ache;
For what blest change can they make!
Place rev'rence, grace, and excellence
Where neither claim'd the least pretence:
Transform by patent's magic words
Men, likest devils into lords;
Whence commoners, to peers translated,
Are justly said to be *created!*
Now where commissioners ye saw,
Shall boards of nobles deal you law!
Long rob'd comtrollers judge your rights,
And tide-waiters start up in knights!
While whigs subdu'd in slavish awe,
Our wood shall hew, our water draw,
And bless that mildness, when past hope,
Which sav'd their necks from noose of rope.
For as to gain assistance, we
Design their negroes to set free;
For whigs, when we enough shall bang 'em,
Perhaps 'tis better not to hang 'em;
Except their chiefs; the vulgar knaves
Will do more good preserv'd for slaves."

"'Tis well," Honorious cried, "your
Has painted out a pretty dream.
We can't confute your second sight;
We shall be slaves and you a knight;
These things must come: but I divine
They'll come not in your day, nor mine.
But O! my friends, my brethren, hear,
And turn for once the attentive ear,
Ye see how prompt to aid our woes,
The tender mercies of our foes:
Ye see with what unvaried rancor
Still for our blood their minions hanker,
Nor ought can sate their mad ambition
From us, but death, or worse, submiss
Shall these then riot in our spoil,
Reap the glad harvest of our toil,
Rise from their country's ruin proud,
And roll their chariot wheels in blood?
And can ye sleep while high outspread
Hangs dessolation o'er your head?
See Gage, with inauspicious star,
Has op'd the gates of civil war;
When streams of gore from freemen slai
Encrimson'd Concord's fatal plain;
Whose warning voice, with awful soun
Still cries like Abel's, from the ground,

And heav'n, attentive to its call,
Shall doom the proud oppressor's fall.

"Rise then, ere ruin swift surprise,
To victory, to vengeance rise!
Hark how the distant din alarms!
The echoing trumpet breathes, to arms!
From provinces, remote afar,
The sons of glory rouse to war;
'Tis freedom calls; th' enraptur'd sound
The Apalachian hills rebound:
The Georgion shores her voice shall hear,
And start from lethargies of fear.
From the parch'd zone, with glowing ray,
Where pours the sun intenser day,
To shores where icy waters roll,
And tremble to the dusky pole,
Inspir'd by freedom's heav'nly charms,
United nations wake to arms.
The star of conquest lights their way,
And guides their vengeance on their prey.—
Yes, though tyrannic force oppose,
Still shall they triumph o'er their foes,
Till heav'n the happy land shall bless,
With safty, liberty, and peace.

"And ye, whose souls of dastard mould,

To love your country who pretend,
Yet want all spirit to defend;
Who feel your fances so prolific,
Engend'ring vision'd whim terrific,
O'er-run with horrors of coercion,
Fire, blood, and thunder in reversion,
King's standards, pilleries, confiscations,
And Gage's scare-crow proclamations,
With all the trumpery of fear;
Hear bullets whizzing in your rear;
Who scarce could rouse, if caught in fray,
Presence of mind to run away;
See nought but halters rise to view
In all your dreams (and breams are true);
And while these phantoms haunt your brains,
Bow down the willing neck to chains.
Heav'ns! are ye sons of sires so great,
Immortal in the fields of fate,
Who brav'd all deaths by land or sea,
Who bled, who conquer'd to be free!
Hence! coward souls, the worst disgrace
Of our forefather's valiant race;
Hie homeward from the glorious field;
There turn the wheel, the distaff wield;
Act what ye are, nor dare to stain
The warrior's arm with touch profane:

There beg your more heroic wives
To guard your children and your lives;
Beneath their aprons find a screen,
Nor dare to mingle more with men."
As thus he said, the tories' anger
Could now restrain itself no longer,
Who tried before by many a freak, or
Insulting noise, to stop the speaker;
Swung th' unoil'd hinge of each pew do
Their feet kept shuffling on the floor:
Made their disapprobation known
By many a murmer, hum, and groan,
That to his speech supplied the place
Of counter part in thorough-bass:
As bag-pipes, while the tune they breat
Still drone and grumble underneath:
Or as the fam'd Demosthenes
Harangu'd the rumbling of the seas,
Held forth, with eloquence full grave,
To audience loud of wind and wave!
And had a stiller congregation
Than tories are, to hear th' oration.
But now the storm grew high and louder
As nearer thund'rings of a cloud are,
And every soul with heart and voice,

Each lis'ning ear was set on torture,
Each tory bell'wing out, to order:
And some, with tongue not low or weak,
Were clam'ring fast for leave to speak:
The moderator, with great vi'lence,
The cushion thump'd, with "silence! silence!"
The constable to ev'ry pratter
Bawl'd out, "Pray hear the moderator!"
Some call'd the vote, and some, in turn,
Were screaming high, "adjourn, adjourn."
Not chaos heard such jars and clashes
When all the el'ments fought for places.
Each bludgeon soon for blows was tim'd;
Each fist stood ready cock'd and prim'd;
The storm each moment louder grew;
His sword the great M'Fingal drew,
Prepar'd in either chance to share,
To keep the peace, or aid the war.
Nor lack'd the each poetic being,
Whom bards alone are skill'd in seeing;
Plum'd victory stood perch'd on high,
Upon the pulpit-canopy,
To join, as is her custom tried,
Like Indians, on the strongest side;
The destinies, with shears and distaff,
Drew near, their threads of life to twist off;

The furies 'gan to feast on blows,
And broken heads or bloody nose;
When on a sudden, from without,
Arose a loud terrific shout:
And straight the people all at once heard
Of tongues an universal concert;
Like Æsop's times, as fable runs,
When ev'ry creature talk'd at once;
Or like the variegated gabble
That craz'd the carpenters of Babel.
Each party soon forgot the quarrel,
And let the other go on parole:
Eager to know what fearful matter
Had conjur'd up such gen'ral clatter;
And left the church in thin array,
As though it had been lecture day.
Our 'Squire M'Fingal straightway beckon'd
The constable to stand his second,
And sallied forth, with aspect fierce,
The crowd assembled to disperse'
The moderator, out of view,
Beneath a bench had lain perdue;
Peep'd up his head to view the fray,
Beheld the wranglers run away,
And left alone, with solemn face,
[redacted]

M'FINGAL.

CANTO THIRD.

THE LIBERTY-POLE.

NOW, arm'd with ministerial ire,
Fierce sallied forth our loyal 'Squire,
And on his striding steps attends
His desp'rate clan of tory friends;
When sudden met his angry eye,
A pole ascending through the sky.
Which num'rous throngs of whiggish race
Were raising in the market place;
Not higher school boys' kits aspire,
Or royal mast, or country spire,
Like spears at Brobdingnagian tilting,
Or Satan's walking staff in Milton;
And on its top the flag unfurl'd,
Wav'd triumph o'er the prostrate world,
Inscrib'd with inconsistent types
Of *liberty* and *thirteen stripes*.
Beneath, the crowd, without delay,
The dedication rites essay,

And gladly pay in ancient fashion,
The ceremonies of libation:
While briskly to each patriot lip
Walks eager round the inspiring flip:*
Delicious draught, whose pow'rs inherit
The quint essence of public spirit!
Which whose tasts, perceives his mind
To nobler politics refin'd.
Or rous'd for martial controversy,
As from transforming cups of Circe;
Or warm'd with Homer's nectar'd liquor
That fill'd the veins of gods with ichor.
At hand, for new supplies in store,
The tavern opes its friendly door,
Whence to and fro the waiters run,
Like bucket-men, at fires in town.
Then with three shouts that tore the sk
'Tis consecrate to liberty:
To guard it from th' attacks of tories,
A grand committee cul'd of four is,
Who, foremost on the patriot spot,
Had brought the flip, and paid the shot.
By this M'Fingal, with his train,
Advanced upon the adjacent plain,

And fierce, with royal rage possess'd,
Pour'd forth the zeal that fir'd his breast.
"What mad-brain'd rebel gave commission
To raise this may-pole of sedition?
Like Babel rear'd by bawling throngs,
With like confusion, too, of tongues,
To point at heav'n, and summon down
The thunders of the British crown?
Say, will this paltry pole secure,
Your forfeit heads from Gage's pow'r?
Attack'd by heroes, brave and crafty,
Is this to stand your ark of safety?
Or, driv'n by Scottish laid and laddie,
Think ye to rest beneath its shadow?
When bombs, like fiery serpents, fly,
And balls move hissing through the sky,
Will this vile pole, devote to freedom,
Save like the Jewish pole in Edom,
Or like the brazen Snake of Moses,
Cure your crack'd skulls and batter'd noses?
Ye dupes to ev'ry factious rogue
Or tavern prating demagogue,
Whose tongue but rings, with sound more full,
On th' empty drumhead of his scull;
Behold you not what noisy fools,
Use you, worse simpletons, for tools?
For liberty in your own by sense,

Is but for crimes a patent licence,
To break of law th' Egyptian yoke,
And throw the world in common stock;
Reduce all grievances and ills
To magna charta of your wills;
Establish cheats, and frauds and nonsense
Fram'd by the model of your conscience,
Cry justice down, as out of fashion,
And fix its scale of depreciation;*
Defy all creditors to trouble ye,
And pass new years of Jewish jubilee;
Drive judges out, like Aaron's calves,
By jurisdiction of white staves,
And make the bar, and bench, and steeple
Submit t' our sov'reign lord, the people;
Assure each knave his whole assets,
By gen'ral amnesty of debts;
By plunder rise to pow'r and glory,
And brand all property as tory:
Expose all wares to lawful seizures
Of mobbers and monopolizers;
Break heads, and windows, and the peace

* Alluding to the depreciation of the continental pape
The declining value of this currency was ascertained and
by congress in what was called *a scale of depreciation*. Se
this subject in the last canto.

For your own int'rest and increase;
Dispute, and pray, and fight, and groan,
For public good, and mean your own;
Prevent the laws, by fierce attacks,
From quitting scores upon your backs;
Lay your old dred, the gallows, low,
And seize the stocks, your ancient foe,
And turn them as convenient engines
To wreak your patriotic vengeance;
While all, your claims who understand,
Confess they're in the owner's hand;
And when by clamours and confusions,
Your freedom's grown a public nuisance,
Cry, *liberty*, with powerful yearning,
As he does, *fire*, whose house is burning,
Though he already has much more,
Than he can find occasion for,
While ev'ry dunce, that turns the plains,
Though bankrupt in estate and brains,
By this new light transform'd to traitor,
Forsakes his plough to turn dictator,
Starts as haranguing chief of whigs,
And drags you by the ears like pigs.
All bluster arm'd with factious license,
Transform'd at once to politicians;
Each leather-apron'd clown, grown wise,

forward face t' advise,
legislators meet
work-shop through the street;
the tailor finds new use in,
and turn the constitution;
ksmith comes with sledge and grate,
bind the wheels of state,
ck forbears his patient souse,
ge the council and the house;
nker quits his moulds and doxies,
st assembly-men at proxies,
dung-hills deep of sable hue,
dirt bred patriots spring to view,
wealth and pow'r and pension rise,
e new wing'd maggots chang'd to flies;
d flutt'ring round in proud parade,
rut in the robe or gay cockade.
ee * Ar—d quits for ways more certain,
His bankrupt perj'ries for his fortune;
Brews rum no longer in his store,

* "Ar—d's perjuries at the time of his pretended bankruptcy, which was the first rise of his fortune; and his curious law-suit against a brother skipper, who had charged him with having caught the above mentioned disease, by his connexion with a certain African princess in the West-Indies, with its humorous issue, are matters, not I believe so generally known, as the other circumstances of *his public and private* character."

Jockey and skipper now no more;
Forsakes his warehouses and docks,
And writs of slander for the pox,
And, purg'd by patriotism from shame,
Grows gen'ral of the foremost name.

*Hiatus.**

For in this ferment of the stream,
The dregs have work'd up to the brim,
And by the rule of topsy-turveys,
The skum stands swelling on the surface.
You've caus'd you pyramid t' ascend,
And set it on the little end:
Like Hudibras, your empire's made,
Whose crupper had o'er-top'd his head;
You've push'd and turn'd the whole world up
Side down, and got yourselves a-top:
While all the great ones of your state,
Are crush'd beneath the pop'lar weight;
Nor can you boast this present hour,
The shadow of the form of pow'r.
For what's your congress,† or its end?

* "M'Fingal having here inserted the names and characters of several great men, whom the public have not yet fully detected, it is thought proper to omit sundry paragraphs of his speech in the present edition."

† The author here, in a true strain of patriotic censure, pointed out the principal defects in the first federal constitution of the Uni-

A pow'r t' advise and recommend;
To call for troops, adjust your quotas,
And yet no soul is bound to notice?
To pawn your faith to th 'utmost limit,
But cannot bind you to redeem it,
And, when in want, no more in them lies
Than begging of your state assemblies;
Can utter oracles of dread,
Like friar Bacon's brazen head;
But should a faction e'er dispute 'em,
Has ne'er an arm to execute 'em.
As though you choose supreme dictators,
And pu them under conversators;
You've but pursued the self-same way,
With Shakespear's Trinclo in the play,
"You shall be viceroys, here, 'tis true,
But we'll be viceroys over you."
What wild confusion hence must ensue,
Though common danger yet cements you
So some wreck'd vessel all in shatters,
Is held up by surrounding waters,
But stranded, when the pressure ceases,
Falls by its rottenness to pieces;

old States: all which have been since removed in the new
tion, estaclished in the year 1789. So that the prophecy bel

And fall it must—if wars were ended,
You'll ne'er have sense enough to mend it;
But creeping on with low intrigues,
Like vermin of an hundred legs,
Will find as short a life assign'd,
As all things else of reptile kind.
Your common wealth's a common harlot,
The property of ev'ry varlet,
Which now in tast and full employ,
All sorts admire, as all enjoy;
But soon a batter'd strumpet grown,
You'll curse and drum her out of town.
Such is the government you chose:
For this you bid the world be foes,
For this, so mark'd for dissolution,
You scorn the British constitution;
That constitution, formed by sages,
The wonder of all modern ages.
Which owns no failure in reality,
Except corruption and venality;
And only proves the adage just,
That best thing spoil'd, corrupt to worst.
So man, supreme in mortal station,
And mighty lord of this creation,
When once his corse is dead as herring,
Becomes the most offensive carrion,

And sooner breeds the plague, 'tis foun
Than all beasts rotting 'bove the ground
Yet for this gov'rnment, to dismay us,
You've call'd up anarchy from Chaos,
With all the followers of her school,
Uproar, and rage, and wild misrule;
For whom this rout of whigs distracted
And ravings dire of ev'ry crack'd head
These new-cast legislative engins
Of country musters and conventions,
Committees vile of correspondence,
And mobs, whose tricks have almost ur
While reason fails to check your course,
And loyalty's kick'd out of doors,
And folly, like inviting landlord,
Hoists on your poles her royal standard.
While the king's friends, in doleful dum
Have worn their courage to the stumps,
And leaving George in sad diaster,
Most sinfully deny'd their master.
What furious rag'd when you in sea,
In shape of Indians, drown'd the tea;*
When your gay sparks, fatigu'd to wate
Assum'd the moggison and hatchet,

* The persons who destoyed the cargo of tea, abov

With wampum'd blankets hide their laces,
And, like their sweethearts, prim'd their faces:
While not a red-coat dar'd oppose,
And scarce a tory show'd his nose;
While Hutchinson, for safe retreat,
Manœuvered to his country seat,
And thence affrighted in the ends,
Stole off bare-headed through the woods!
Have you not rous'd your mobs to join,
And make mainbraces, men resign,
Call'd forth each duffil-dress'd curmudgeon,
With dirty trowsers and white bludgeon,
Forc'd all our councils through the land;
To yield their necks to your command;
While paleness marks their late disgraces,
Through all their rueful length of faces?
Have you not caus'd as woful work
In loyal city of New-York,*
When all the rabble, well cockaded,
In triumph through the streets paraded;
And mobb'd the tories, scar'd their spouses,
And ransack'd all the custom-houses;

* There were so many influential tories in New-York, that they at first obtained a vote in favor of the acts of parliament, and against the proceedings of the first congress.

Made such a tumult, bluster, jarring,
That, mid the clash of tempests warring,
Smith's wethercock, with veers forlorn,*
Could hardly tell which way to turn;
Burnt effigies of th' higher powers,
Contrived in planetary hours,
As witches, with clay images,
Destroy or torture whom they please;
Till fir'd with rage, th' ungrateful club,
Spar'd not your best friend, Beelzebub,
O'erlook'd his favors and forgot
The rev'rence due t' his cloven foot,
And in the self same furnace frying,
Burn'd him, and North, and Bute, and Tryo
Did you not in as vile and shallow way,
Fright our poor Philadelphian, Galloway,‡
Your congress when the daring ribald
Belied, berated, and bescribbled;

* William Smith, formerly a lawyer in New-York.

†Tryon, being now dead, is probably forgot. The reader know that he was governor of New-York, and a British gener ring the war. He had the glory of burning the towns of Fai and Norwalk, and of issuing many proclamations. The othe sonages that make up this *kettle of fish*, Bute, Beelzebub, and N are still living, and therefore want no explanation.

‡ Galloway began by being a flaming patriot.
He is one of the few men who proved a traitor to his country

What ropes and halters did you send,
Terrific emblems of his end,
Till, lest he'd hang in more than effigy,
Fled in a fog the trembling refugee?
Now rising in progression fatal,
Have you not ventur'd to give battle?
When treason chac'd our heroes troubled,
With rusty gun and leathern doublet,
Turn'd all stone walls, and groves, and bush
To batt'ries armed with blunderbusses,
And with deep wounds, that fate portend,
Gall'd many a reg'lar's latter end,
Drove them to Boston, as in jail,
Confin'd without main prize or bail,
Were not these deeds enough betimes,
To heap the measure of your crimes,
But in this loyal town and dwelling,
You raise these ensigns of rebellion?
'Tis done; fair mercy shuts her door:
And vengeance now shall sleep no more;
Rise then my friends, in terror rise,
And wipe this scandal from the skies!
You'll see their Dagon, though well jointed,
Will sink before the Lord's anointed,
And like old Jericho's proud wall,
Before our ram's horns prostrate fall."

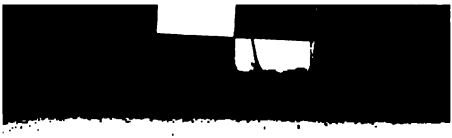
This said, our 'squire, yet undismay'd,
Call'd forth the constables to aid,
And bade him read in nearer station,
The riot-act and proclamation,*
Who, now advancing tow'rd the ring,
Began, "Our sovereign lord the king"—
When thousand clam'rous tongues he hears,
And clubs and stones assail his ears;
To fly was vain, to fight was idle,
By foes encompass'd in the middle:
In stratagem his aid he found,
And fell right craftily to the ground;
Then crept to seek an hiding place,
'Twas all he could, beneath a brace:
Where soon the conqu'ring crew espied him,
And where he lurk'd they caught and tied him.
At once with resolution fatal,
Both whigs and tories rush'd to battle;
Instead of weapons either hand
Seiz'd on such arms as came to hand.
And as fam'd Ovid† paints the adventures
Of wrangling Lapithæ and Centaurs,

*Reading the riot act has the same miraculous effect in America as in England; it may convert any collection of men into a *riot*, and the tremendious prologue to any tragedy that may result from the exercise of martial law.

Who at their feast, by Bacchus led,
Threw bottles at each other's head,
And these arms falling in their scuffles,
Attack'd with handirons, tongs, and shovels
So clubs and billets, staves and stones,
Met fierce, encountering every sconce,
And cover'd o'er with knobs and pains,
Each void receptacle for brains;
Their clamors rend the hills around,
And earth rebellows with the sound;
And many a groan increas'd the din
From broken nose and batter'd shin.
M'Fingal rising at the word,
Drew forth his old militia sword;
Thrice cried, "King George," as erst in dis
Romancing heroes did their mistress,
And brandishing the blade in air,
Struck terror through th' opposing war,
The whigs, unsafe within the wind
Of such commotion, shrunk behind.
With whirling steel around address'd,
Fierce through their thickest throng he pres
(Who roll'd on either side in arch,
Like red-sea waves in Israel's march)
And like a meteor rushing through,
Struck on their pole a vengeful blow;

Around, the whigs, of clubs and stones
Discharg'd whole vollies in platoons,
That o'er in whistling terror fly;
But not a foe dares venture nigh.
And now, perhaps, with conquest crown'd,
Our 'Squire had fell'd their pole to ground,
Had not some pow'r, a whig at heart,
Descended down and took their part?
(Whether 'twere Pallas, Mars, or Iris,
'Tis scarce worth while to make enquiries,
Who at the nick of time alarming,
Assum'd the graver form of chairman;
Address'd a whig, in every scene
The stoutest wrestler on the green.
And appointed where the spade was found,
Late us'd to fix the pole in ground,
And urg'd with equal arms and might
To dare our 'Squire to single fight.*
The whig thus arm'd, untaught to yield,
Anvanc'd tremendous to the field;
Nor did M'Fingal shun the foe,
But stood to brave the desp'rate blow;
While all the party gaz'd, suspended,
To see the deadly combat ended.

* "The learned reader will readily observe the allusion



And Jove in equal balance weigh'd
The sword against the brandish'd spade;
He weigh'd; but lighter than a dream,
The sword flew up and kick'd the beam.
Our 'Squire on tiptoe rising fair,
Lifts high a noble stroke in air,
Which hung not, but like dreadful engines
Descended on the foe in vengeance.
But ah! in danger with dishonor,
The sword perfidious fails its owner:
That sword, which oft had stood its ground
By huge train bands encompass'd round,*
Or on the bench, with blade right loyal,
Had won the day at many a trial,
Of stone and clubs had brav'd th' alarms,
Shrunk from these new vulcanian arms.
The spade so temper'd from the sledge,
Nor keen nor solid harm'd its edge,
Now met it from its arm of might
Descending with steep force to smite;
The blade snap'd short—and from his hand
With rust embrown'd the glitt'ring sand.
Swift turn'd M'Fingal at the view,
And call'd for aid th' attendant crew,

* A *train band* is a captain's company in the militia

vain; the tories all had run
hen scarce the fight was well begun;
their setting wigs he saw decreas'd,
Far in the horizon tow'rd the west.
Amaz'd he view'd the shameful sight,
And saw no refuge but in flight;
But age unwieldly check'd his pace,
Though fear had wing'd his flying race;
For not a trifling prize at stake;
No less than great M'Fingal's back.
With legs and arms he work'd his course,
Like rider that out goes his horse,
And labored hard to get away, as
Old Satan * struggling on through chaos:
Till, looking back, he spied in rear
The spade arm'd chief advanc'd too near.
Then stopp'd and seiz'd a stone that lay
An ancient land-mark near the way;
Nor shall we, as old bards have done,
Affirm it weigh'd an hundred ton;
But such a stone as at a shift
A modern might suffice to lift.
Since men, to credit their enigmas,
Are dwindled down to dwarfs and p
And giants, exil'd with their cronie
To Brobdingnags and Patagonies.

* In Milton.

But while our hero turn'd him round
And stoop'd to raise it from the ground
The deadly spade discharg'd a blow
Tremendous on his rear below;
His bent knee fail'd, and, void of sense
Stretch'd on the ground his manly length
Like ancient oak o'erturn'd by fury,
Or tow'rs to tempests fall'n a prey.
And more things else—but all these
If slightly vers'd in epic poem.
At once the crew at this sad crisis,
Fall on and bind him ere he rises,
And with loud shouts and joyful soul
Conduct him pris'ner to the pole.

When now the mob in lucky hour
Had got their enemies in their pow'r,
They first proceed by wise command,
To take the constable in hand:
Then from the pole's sublimest top
They speeded to let down the rope,
At once its other end in haste bind,
And make it fast upon his waistband,
Till, the earth, as stretch'd on tenter,
He hung self-balanc'd on his centre.
Then upwards, all hands hoisting sail
They swung him, like a keg of ale,

philosophy, get hoisted,
ound his thoughts flow strangely clear,
in a basket in mid-air;
lprit thus in purer sky,
ke advantage rais'd his eye;
oking forth in prospect wide,
y errors clearly spy'd,
om his elevated station,
awling voice began addressing,
l gentlemen, and friends, and kin,
av'n's sake hear, if not for mine!
renounce the Pope, the Turks,
ng, the devil, and all their works;
ill, set me but once at ease,
whig or christian, what you please;
ways mind your laws as justly;

Nor overcome your new-rais'd l
Destroy your towns, nor burn y
Nor cut your poles down while
Though rais'd more thick than
But leave king George and all
To do their conqu'ring work
This said they low'r'd him do
Spread at all points, like falli
But took a vote first on the
That they'd accept this full
And to their fellowship and
Restore him on his good be
Not so, our 'Squire submi
But stood heroic as a mul
"You'll find it all in vai
"To play your rebel tri
All punishments the wo
Serve only to provoke t
The will's confirm'd by
As bodies grow harder
No man e'er felt the h
With good opinion of
Or held, in method
His love of justice in
Or fail'd to lose by
At once his loyalty

ob'd Ol'ver* quit his ...
is vows of resignation?
igton, † in dread of strips,
ing since you stole his types?
you think my faith will alter,

the "chief judge Oliver" of the first canto, in whose
t the sagacious M'Fingal perceives that heaven had no
ground of the quarrel between the British government
ople of Massachusetts was, the act by which the judges of
were rendered independent of the colony for their salary
for their places; which was contrary to ancient usage.
people felt these particular acts of oppression from a
e thousand miles distant, their only method of redress was,
t any person from accepting an office, or from exercising
ns, under such an act. This expedient had been successful
e of the stamp act a few years before; and the people now
judge Oliver, requesting him to resign an office, the new
ent of which so manifestly struck at the foundation of
... The judge promised to resign his place; but afterwards
... which M'Fingal has so well

By tarring, whipping, or the halter?
I'll stand the worst: for recompence
I trust king George and providence.
And when, our conquest gain'd, I come
Array'd in law and terror, home,
You'll rue this inauspicious morn,
And curse the day you e'er were born,
In job's high style of imprecations,
With all his plagues, without his patien
Meanwhile, beside the pole, the guar
A bench of justice had prepar'd,
Were sitting round in awful sort,
The grand committee hold their court:
While all the crew, in silent awe,
Wait from their lips the leor of law.
Few moments, with deliberation,
They hold the solemn consultation,
When soon in judgment all agree,
And clerk declares the dread decree:
"That 'Squire M'Fingal having grown
The vilest tory in the town,
And now on full examination,
Convicted by his own confession,
Finding no token of repentance,
This court proceed to render sentence:
That first the mob a slip-knot single
Tie round the neck of said M'Fingal

Forthwith the crowd proceed to deck,
With halter'd noose M'Fingal's neck,
While he in peril of his soul,
Stood ty'd half hanging to the pole!
Then lifting high the pond'rous jar,
Pour'd o'er his head the smoking tar:
With less profusion erst was spread
The Jewish oil on royal head,
That down his beard and vestments ran,
And cover'd all his outward man.
As when (so Claudian sings*) the gods
And earth-born giants fell at odds.
The stout Enceladus in malice
Tore mountains up to throw at Pallas:
And as he held them o'er his head,
The river, from their fountains fled,
Pour'd down his back its copious tide,
And wore its channels in his hide:
So, from the high-rais'd urn, the torrents
Spread down his side their various currents:

* "Claudian's Gigamomachia."

——— depending as he stood,
Each cuff capacious holds the flood:
From nose and chin's remotest end,
The tarry icicles depend:
Till all o'erspread, with colours gay,
He glitter'd to the western ray,
Like sleet-bound trees in wintry skies,
Or Lapland idol carv'd in ice.
And now the feather-bag display'd,
Is wav'd in triumph o'er his head,
And spread him o'er with feathers missive,
And down upon the tar adhesive;
Not Maia's son, with wings for ears,
Such plumes around his visage wears
Nor Milton's six-wing'd angel gathers
Such superfluity of feathers:
Till all complete ———

To end in mirth the festal day.
And now the mob, dispers'd and gone,
Left 'Squire and constable alone,
The constable, in rueful case,
Lean'd sad and solemn o'er a brace.
And fast beside him, cheek by jowl,
Stuck 'Squire M'Fingal 'gainst the pole,
Glued by the tar, t' his rear apply'd,
Like barnacle on vessel's side,
But though his body lack'd physician,
His spirit was in worse condition.
He found his fears of whips and ropes,
By many a drachm outweigh'd his hopes.
As men in gaol without main prize,
View ev'ry thing with other eyes;
And all goes wrong in church and state,
Seen through perspective of the great;
So now M'Fingal's second sight
Beheld all things in diff'rent light:

* Such votes were frequently passed at town meetings; the of which was, to prevent the augmentation of prices on the neces of life, and thus to obviate the effects of the depreciation of the money.

His wig from pussy [illegible]
His mouth unglu'd his feathers flutter'd,
His tarr'd skirts crack'd, and thus he utter'd;
'Ah, Mr. Constable, in vain
We strive 'gainst wind, and tide, and rain!
Behold my doom; this feather'd omen
Portends what dismal times are coming.
Now future scenes before my eyes,
And second-sighted forms arise;
I hear a voice that calls away,
And cries, The whigs will win the day;
My beck'ning genius gives command,
And bids us fly the fatal land;
Where, changing name and constitution,
Rebellion turns to revolution,
While loyalty, oppress'd in tears,
Stands trembling for his neck and ears.

scenes disclose, on which, my friend,
r conduct and their lives depend!
e I—but first 'tis more of use,
i this vile pole to set me loose:—
i go with cautious steps and steady.
e I steer home and make all ready."

END OF THE THIRD CANTO.

CANTO FOURTH.

THE VISION.

NOW night came down, and rose full soon
at patroness of rogues, the moon,
ieath whose kind, protecting ray,
)lves, brute and human, prowl for prey.
.e honest world all snored in chorus,
hile owls and ghosts, and thieves and tories,
hom erst the mid-day sun had aw'd,
ept from their lurking holes abroad.
1 cautious hinges, slow and stiller
'ide op'd the great M'Fingal's * cellar,
'here. shut from prying eyes in cluster,

Nor yet his * form had wholly
The orig'nal brightness it coul
Nor less appear'd than justice
In feather'd majesty before 'e
Adown his tar-streak'd visage
Fell glistning fast th' indignant
And thus his voice, in mournfu
Pursu'd the prologue of his sig

"Brethren and friends, the
Of loyalty in rebel land!
It was not thus you've seen me
Return'd in triumph from town
When blust'ring whigs were p
And votes obey'd my guiding
And new commissions pleas'd
Blest days, but, ah, no more tc
Alas! against my better light
And optic sure of second-sight
My stubborn soul, in error str
Had faith in Hutchinson too lo
See what brave trophies still w
From all our battles for the kin
And yet these plagues, now pa
Are but our entering-wedge of

* "——His form had not yet lost
All its original brightness, nor appear'd
Less than archangel ruin'd."

Which though from our own vapors fed,
Shall point its thunders on our head!
I see the mob, beflipp'd in taverns,
Hunt us, like wolves, through wilds and caverns,
What dungeons rise t' alarm our fears,
What horse-whips whistle round our ears!
Far, yet in embryo in the pine,
Shall run, on tories' backs to shine;
Trees rooted fair in groves of sallows;
Are growing for our future gallows;
And geese unhatch'd, when pluck'd in fray,
Shall rue the feath'ring of that day.
For me, before these fatal days,
I mean to fly th' accursed place,
And follow omens, which of late
Have warn'd me of impending fate;

M'I

I saw a ladder heav'd
I saw the deadly rope
And in its noose, that
Friend * Malcolm hun
How chang'd from hin
Stood aid-de-camp to g
Made rebels vanish on
And sav'd his life, but
I scarce had made a fe
And trembling ask'd h
When, lifting up her e
(His eyes alone—his ha
With feeble voice, as s
Now almost choak'd w
† "Ah! fly, my friend,
And keep yourself from

This arm (and shook it) ——
But longer now 'tis vain to stay:
See, ev'n the reg'lars run away:
Wait not till things grow desperater,
For hanging is no laughing matter;
This might you grandsires' fortunes tell you on,
Who both were hang'd the last rebellion;
Adventure, then, no longer stay,
But call your friends, and run away.
For lo, through deepest glooms of night,
I come to aid thy second sight,
Disclose the plagues that round us wait,
And wake the dark decrees of fate.
Ascend this ladder, whence, unfurl'd,
The curtain opes of t' other world;
For here new worlds their scenes unfold,
Seen from this back-door of the old.*

And bore in show his mortal carcase,
Through realms of Erebus and Orcus,
Then in the happy fields Elysian,
Saw all embryo sons in vision;
As shown by great archangel, Michael,
Old Adam saw the world's whole sequel,
And from the mounts extended space,
The rising fortunes of his race;
So from this stage shalt thou behold
The war its coming scenes unfold,
Rais'd by my arm to meet thine eye;
My Adam, thou; thine angel, I,
But first my pow'r, for visions † bright,
Must cleanse from clouds thy mental sight,
Remove the dim suffusions spread,
Which bribes and sal'ries there have bred;
And, from the well of Bute infuse
Three genuine drops of highland dews,
To purge, like euphracy and rue,
Thine eyes, for much thou hast to view.
"Now, freed from tory darkness, raise
Thy head, and spy the coming days;
For lo, before our second sight,
The continent ascends in light:

† "See Milton's Paradise Lost, book 11."

Through ev'ry [illegible]
Speed gallant marches to the g[illegible]
Of battling whigs the frequent prize,
While rebel trophies stain the skies.
Behold, o'er northern realms afar,*
Extend the kindling flames of war!
See fam'd St. John's and Montreal,
Doom'd by Montgom'ry's arm to fal

* Nothing less than the whole history of the Am
be sufficient, completely to illustrate the merits o
agraph. Malcolm, the gallows-taught prophet,
mind of M'Fingal to contemplate, with proper
various scenes that are to rise successively to view
the vision, glances over the continent, and mentio
the principal scenes of action, from the expeditio
1775, to the capture of lord Cornwallis in 1781. Th
of his speech is therefore a kind of argument to
vision; in which the same objects are unfolded a
attendant circumstances; in order that they m
impression on the elevated mind of the great M'I
that our poet, like Homer, in his Iliad, seizes a
honor to his principal hero. By supposing him al
all natural and political knowledge that could be c
study and experience, he makes him, like Achilles
ing instruction only by the agency of a superior
advisers of Achilles descended from the skies, t
mounted towards the skies.

nere Hudson with majestic sway,
Through hills disparted ploughs his wa
Fate spreads on Bemus' heights alarms,
And pours destruction on our arms:
There Bennington's ensanguin'd plain,
And Stony-Point, the prize of Wayne.
Behold near Del'ware's icy roar,
Where morning dawns on Trenton's sh
While Hessians spread their Christmas
Rush rude these uninvited guests;
Nor aught avail, to whigs a prize,
Their martial whisker's grisly size.
On Princeton plains our heroes yield,
And spread in flight the vanquish'd fiel
While fear to Mawhood's heels puts on
Wings, wide as worn by Maia's son.
Behold the Pennsylvanian shore,
Enrich'd with streams of British gore:
Where many a vet'ran chief in bed
Of honor rests his slumbering head,
And in soft vales, in lands of foes,
Their wearied virtue finds repose.
See plund'ring Dunmore's negro band
Fly headlong from Virginia's strand:
And far on southern hills, our cousins,
The Scotch M'Donalds, fall by dozens:

far near Eutaw's fatal springs,
Descending Vict'ry spreads her wings!
Through all the land in various chase,
We hunt the rainbow of success:
In vain! their chief, superior still,
Eludes our force with Fabian skill:
Or swift descending by surprise,
Like Prussia's eagle, sweeps the prize."

I look'd; nor yet, opprest with fears,
Gave credit to my eyes or ears,
But held the views an empty dream,
On Berkley's immaterial scheme:
And pond'ring sad, with troubled breast
At length my rising doubts express'd.

"Ah, whither, thus by rebles smitten,
Is fled th' omnipotence of Britain,
[illegible] to keep,

As Baal his prophets left confounded,
And bawling vot'ries gash'd and wounded?
Did not, retir'd to bow'rs Elysian,
Great Mars leave with her his commission,
And Neptune erst, in treaty free,
Give up dominion o'er the sea?
Else where's the faith of fam'd orations,
Address, debate, and proclamations,
Or courtly sermon, laureat ode,
And ballads on the wat'ry god;
With whose high strains great George enriches
His eloquence of gracious speeches?
Not faithful to our highland eyes,
These deadly forms of vision rise:
But sure some whig inspiring sprite
Now palms delusion on our sight.
I'd scarcely trust a tale so vain,
Should revelation prompt the strain
Or Ossian's ghost the scenes rehearse,
In all the melody of * Erse."
"Too long," quoth Malcom' with confusion
"You've dwelt already in delusion,

reader in the various and immortal works mentioned by the poet in the text.

* "Erse, the ancient Scottish language, in which Ossian wrote his poems."

Fools love [illegible],
Prefer sad truth to pleasing lies,
For know those hopes can ne'er succeed
That trust on Britain's breaking reed.
For weak'ning long from bad to worse,
By fatal atrophy of purse,
She feels at length with trembling heart,
Her foes have found her mortal part.
As fam'd Achilles, dipt by Thetis
In Styx, as sung in ancient ditties,
Grew all case-harden'd o'er like steel,
Invurnerable, save his heel;
And laugh'd at swords and spears, as squibs,
And all deseases, but the kibs:
Yet met at last his fatal wound,
By Paris' arrow nail'd to th' ground:
So Britain's boasted strength deserts,
[illegible]'s utmost skirts,

Whence in this turn of things so strange,
'Tis time our principles to change.
For vain that boasted faith, which gathers
No perquisit, but tar and feathers,
No pay but whigs' insulting malice,
And no promotion but the gallows.
I've long enough stood firm and steady,
Half hang'd for loyalty already:
And could I save my neck and pelf,
I'd turn a flaming whig myself,
And quit this cause, and course, and calling,
Like rats that fly from house that's falling,
But since, obnoxious here to fate,
This saving wisdom comes too late,
Our noblest hopes already crost,
Our sal'ries gone, our titles lost,
Doom'd to worse suff'rings from the mob,
Than Satan's sug'ries used on Job;
What more remains but now with sleight.
What's left of us to save by flight?

"Now raise thine eyes; for visions true
Again ascending wait thy view."
I look'd; and clad in early light,
The spires of Boston rose to sight;
The morn o'er eastern hills afar
Illum'd the varying scenes of war.

Great Howe had long since in the lap
Of Loring taken out his nap,
And with the sun's ascending ray,
The cuckold came to take his pay.
When all th'encircling hills around,
With instantaneous breast-works crow
With pointed thunders met his sight,
By magic rear'd the former night,
Each summit far as eye commands,
Shone peopled with rebellious bands,
Aloft their tow'ring heroes rise,
As Titans erst assail'd the skies,
Leagu'd with superior force to prove,
The sceptred hand of British Jove,
Mounds, pil'd on hills, ascended fair,
With batt'ries, plac'd in middle air,
That, rais'd like angry clouds on high,
Seem'd like th' artill'ry of the sky,
And hurl'd their fiery bo'ts amain,
In thunder on the trembling plain,
I saw along the prostrate strand,
Our ba'fl'd gen'rals quit the land,
And, swift as frighted mermaids, flee,
T' our boasted element the sea!
Resign that long contested shore,
Again the prize of rebel power.

And tow'rd their town of refuge fly,
Like convict Jews condemn'd to die.
Then tow'rd the north I turn'd my eyes,
Where Saratoga's heights arise,
And saw our chosen vet'ran band,
Descend in terror o'er the land:
T' oppose their fury of alarms,
Saw all New-England wake to arms,
And ev'ry yankey, full of mettle,
Swarm forth, like bees at sound of kettle.
Not Rome, when Tarquin rap'd Lucretia,
Saw wilder must'ring of militia.
Through all the woods and plains of fight,
What mortal battles fill'd my sight,
While British corses strew'd the shore.
And Hudson ting'd his streams with gore!
What tongue can tell the dismal day,
Or paint the party colour'd fray:
When yoemen left their fields afar,
To plough the crimson plains of war:
When zeal to swords transform'd their shares,
And turn their pruning hooks to spears,
Chang'd taylor's geese to guns and ball,
And stretch'd to pike the cobler's awl:
While hunters fierce, like mighty Nimrod,
Made on our troops a daring inroad:

And epaulet and [illegible]
Frow whinyard brown and rusty gun;
While sun-burnt whigs in high command,
Rush furious on our frighted band,
And ancient beards and hoary hair,
Like meteors stream in troubled air.
With locks unshorn not Sampson more
Made useless all the show of war,
Nor fought with ass's jaw for rarity,
With more success or singularity.
I saw our vet'ran thousands yield,
And pile their muskets on the field;
And peasant guards, in rueful plight,
March off our captur'd bands from fight;
While every rebel-fife in play,
To yankey doodle tun'd its lay,
[illegible] like the music of the spheres,
[illegible]

"There see how fate," great Malcolm
"Strikes with its bolts the tow'rs of prid
Behold that martial macaroni,
Compound of Pœbus and Bellona,
With warlike sword and sing song lay,
Equipp'd alike for feast or fray,
Where equal wit and valor join;
This, this is he, the fam'd Burgoyne;
Who pawn'd his honor and commission,
To coax the patriots to submission,
By songs and balls secure obedience,
And dance the ladies to allegiance.
Oft his camp muses he'll parade
At Boston in the grand blockade:
And well invok'd with punch of arrack,
Hold converse sweet in tent of barrack,
Inspir'd in more heroic fashion,
Both by his theme and situation,
While farce and proclamation grand,
Rise fair beneath his plastic hand,
For genious swells more strong and clear
When close confin'd, like bottled beer;
So Prior's wit gaind greater pow'r
By inspiration of the tow'r;
And Raleigh, fast in prison hurl'd,
Wrote all the hist'ry of the world;

And public spirit once so ....,
Evaporate in open air.
But thou, great favorite of Venus,
By no such luck shall cramp thy genius:
Thy friendly stars, till war shall cease,
Shall ward th' ill fortune of release,
And hold thee fast in bonds not feeble,
In good condition still to scribble.
Such merit fate shall shield from firing,
Bomb, carcass, langridge, and cold iron;
Nor trusts thy doubly-laurel'd head,
To rude assaults of flying lead.
Hence, in this Saratoga retreat,
For pure good fortune thou'lt be beat:
Not taken oft, releas'd or rescued,
Pass for small change, like simple Presc[illegible]
[illegible]'d there, as fates befall,

And, changing war for puns and jokes,
Write new Blockades, and Maids of Oaks."†
This said, he turn'd, and saw the tale
Had dy'd my trembling cheeks with pale:
Then, pitying, in a milder vein,
Pursu'd the visionary strain.
"Too much, perhaps, hath pain'd your view
Of vict'ries gain'd by rebel crews:
Now see the deeds, not small nor scanty,
Of British valor and human'ty,
And learn from this auspicious sight,
How England's sons and friends can fight,
In what dread scenes their courage grows,
And how they conquer all their foes."
I look'd and saw, in wintry skies,
Our spacious prison walls arise,
Where Britons all their captives taming,
Plied them with scourging, cold and famine:
Reduc'd to life's concluding stages,
By noxious food and plagues contagious.
Aloft the mighty*Loring stood,

† "The Maid of the Oaks, and the blockade of Boston, are fare —the first acknowledged by general Burgoyne; the other generall ascribed to him."

*Loring was a refugee from Boston, made commissionary of priso ers by general Howe. The consumate cruelties practised on the Ame ican prisoners under Loring's administration almost exceed th ordinary powers of human invention. If a simple statement of fac

At hand our troops, in vaunting strains,
Insulted all their wants and pains,
And turn'd on all the dying tribe,
The bitter taunt and scornful gibe:
And British officers of might,
Triumphant at the joyful sight,
O'er foes disarm'd, with courage daring,
Exhausted all their tropes of swearing.
Around all stain'd with rebel blood,
Like Milton's lazar-house it stood,

relative to this business were properly drawn up and authenti
it would furnish the friends of humanity with new images of
in contemplating the ravages of war; especially a war that o
the name of rebellion, and is carried on at a distance from th
of the nation. The conduct of the Turks in putting all prison
death is certainly much more rational and humane, than that
British army for the three first years of the American war, or
ter the capture of Burgoyne. We except from this general ob

Where grim despair attends'd nurse,
And death was gov'rnor of the house,
Amaz'd, I cried, "Is this the way
That British valor wins the day?"
More had I said, in strains unwelcome,
Till interrupted thus by Malcolm:
"Blame not," quoth he, "but learn the reason
Of this new mode of conqu'ring treason.
'Tis but a wise, politic plan,
To root out all the rebel clan;
(For surely treason ne'er can thrive,
Where not a soul is left alive:)
A scheme, all other chiefs to surpass,
And do th' effectual work to purpose;
For war itself is nothing further,
But th' art and mystery of murther,
And who most methods has essay'd,
Is the best gen'ral of the trade,
And stands death's plenipotentiary,
To conquer, poison, starve and bury.
This Howe well knew, and thus began,
(Despising Carleton's coaxing plan,
Who kept his pris'ners well and merry
And delt them food like commissary,
And by paroles and ransome vain,
Dismiss'd them all to fight again:)

Then, wise in stratagem,
The sure destruction of the land,
Turn'd famine, sickness, and despair
To useful enginery of war,
Instead of cannon, musket, morter,
Us'd pestilence, and death, and torture,
Sent forth the small pox, and the greater,
To thin the land of every traitor,
And order'd out, with like endeavor,
Detatchments of the prison fever;
Spread dissolation o'er their head,
And plagues in providence's stead,
Perform'd with equal skill and beauty,
Th' avenging angel's tour of duty,
Brought all the elements to join,
And stars t' assist the great design:
As once in league with Kishon's brook,
[illegible] and took

Like temple tow'ring to the skies,
Where British clemency renown'd,
Might fix her seat on sacred ground;
(That virtue, as each herald saith,
Of whole blood kin to Punic faith;)
Where all her godlike pow'rs unveiling,
She finds a grateful shrine to dwell in.
Then, at this altar for her honor,
Chose this high-priest to wait upon her,
Who, with just rites, in ancient guises,
Presents these human sacrifices;
Great Loring, fam'd above all laymen,
A proper priest for Lybian Ammon,
Who, while Howe's gift his brows adorns,
Had match'd that deity in horns.
Here ev'ry day her vot'ries tell,
She more devours than the idol Bel;
And thrust more rav'nously for gore,
Than any worshipp'd power before.
That ancient heathen godhead, Molock,
Oft stay'd his stomach with a bullock,
Or if his morning rage you'd check first,
One child suffic'd him for a breakfast.
But British clemency, with zeal,
Devours her hundreds at a meal:
Right well by nat'ralists defin'd,
A being of carniv'rous kind;

Like earthquake gapes to death-devour,
That open sepulchre, her throat;
The grave, or barren womb you'd stuff,
And sooner bring to cry, enough;
Or fatten up to fair condition,
The lean flesh kine of Pharaoh's vision.

"Behold her temple, where it stands
Erect by fam'd Britannic hands:
'Tis the black hole of Indian structure,
New built with English architecture,
On plan, 'tis said, contriv'd and wrote
By Clive, before he cut his throat;
Who, ere he took himself in hand,
Was her high-priest in nabob-land;
And when, with conqu'ring glory crown'd,
He'd well enslav'd the nation round,
[illegible] heart the gen'rous chief,

Dismiss'd them free to worlds of spirits:
Whence they, with gratitude and praise,
Return'd, * t' attend his latter days,
And hov'ring round his restless bed,
Spread nightly visions o'er his head.
"Now turn," he cried, "to nobler sights,
And mark the prowess of our fights:
Behold, like whelps of British lion,
The warriors, Clinton, Vaughan, and Tryon,
March forth with patriotic joy,
To ravish, plunder, burn, destroy.
Great gen'rals, foremost in the nation,
The journeymen of desolation!
Like Sampson's foxes, each assails,
Let loose with firebrands in their tails,
And spreads destruction more forlorn,
Than they did in Philistine corn.
And see! in flames their triumphs rise,
Illuming all the nether skies,
And streaming, like a new Aurora,
The western hemisphere with glory!
What towns in ashes laid, confess
These heroes' prowess and success!

* "Clive, in the latter years of his life, conceived himself perpetually haunted by the ghosts of those who were the victims of his British humanity in the East-Indies."

Or plunder'd negroes, —
Confess king George their lord and master!
What crimson corses strew their way,
Till smoking carnage dims the day!
Along the shore, for sure reduction,
They weild their besom of destruction,
Great Homer likens, in his Ilias,
To dog-star bright the fierce Achilles;
But ne'er beheld, in red procession,
Three dog-stars rise in constellation;
Or saw in glooms of ev'ning misty,
Such signs of fiery triplic'ty,
Which far beyond the comet's tail,
Portend destruction where they sail.
Oh! had Great Britain's godlike shore
Produc'd but ten such heroes more,
[illegible]'d the pains, and held the station

Like morning dreams, our conquest flies,
Dispers'd before the dawn arises."
Here Malcolm paus'd; when pond'ring long,
Grief thus gave utt'rance to my tongue:
"Where shrink in fear our friends dismay'd
And all the tories' promis'd aid?
Can none, amid these fierce alarms,
Assist the pow'r of royal arms?"
"In vain," he cried, "our king depends
On promis'd aid of tory friends.
When our own efforts want success,
Friends ever fail as fears increase.
As leaves in blooming verdure wove,
In warmth of summer clothe the grove;
But when autumnal frosts arise,
Leave bare their trunks to wintry skies;
So while your pow'r can aid their ends,
You ne'er can need ten thousand friends;
But, once in want, by foes dismay'd,
May advertise them stol'n or stray'd.
Thus, ere Great-Britain's strength grew slack,
She gain'd that aid she did not lack;
But now in dread, imploring pity,
All hear, unmov'd her dol'rous ditty:
Allegiance wand'ring turns astray,
And faith grows dim for lack of pay.

In vain she tries by new inventions,
Fear, falsehood, flatt'ry threats and pensions;
Or sends commiss'ners with credentials*
Of promises and penitentials.
As, for his fair o'er Styx of old,
The Trojan stole the bough of gold;
And, least grim Cerb'rus should make head,
Stuff'd both his fobs with † gingerbread.
Behold, at Britain's utmost shifts,
Comes Johnstone, loaded with like gifts,
To venture through the whiggish tribe,
To cuddle, wheedle, coax and bribe,

* "The passage that here follows is to be explained thus: In the year 1778, after the war had been raging three years, and the capture of Burgoyn's army was known in England, the British government concluded to give up all the objects for which the contest had been begun. It accordingly passed an act repealing all the acts of which the Americans complained, provided we would rescind our declaration of independence, and continue to be their colonies. The ministry then sent over three commissoners, Mr. Johnstone, Mr. Eden, and lord Carlisle. These commissioners began their operations, and finished them by attempting to bribe individuals among the members of the states, and of the army. This bait appears to have caught nobody but Arnold. The *petticoated politician*, here mentioned, is a woman of Philadelphia, (and a lady of considerable distinction through whose agency they offered a bribe to Joseph Read, governor of Pennsylvania.

† ——Medicatam frugibus offam.

Æneids lib. vi, 419.

Enter their lands, and on his journey,
Possession take as king's attorney;
Buy all the vassals to protect him,
And bribe the tenants not t' eject him,
And call, to aid his desp'rate mission,
His petticoated politician;
While Venus, join'd t' assist the farce,
Stroles forth ambassador for Mars.
In vain he strives, (for while he lingers,
These mastiffs bite his off'ring fingers,)
Nor buys for George and realms infernal,
One spaniel, but the mongrel Arnold.
'Twer vain to paint in vision'd show,
The mighty nothings done by Howe;
What towns he takes in mortal fray,
As stations, whence to run away;
What conquest Gain'd in battle warm,
To us no aid, to them no harm;
For still th' event alike is fatal,
What' er success attend the battle,
If he gain victory or lose it,
Who ne'er had skill enough to use it;
And better 'twere, at their expense,
T' have drubb'd him into common sense;
And wak'd, by bastings on his rear,
Th' activity, though but of fear!

By slow advance his arm prevail
Like emblematic march of snail;
That, be millennium nigh or far,
'Twould long before him end the war.
From York to Philadelphian ground,
He sweeps the mighty flourish round,
Wheel'd circ'lar by eccentric stars,
Like racing boys at prison-bars;*
Who take the adverse crew in whole,
By running round the opp'site goal;
Works wide the traverse of his course,
Like ship in storms' opposing force;
Like mill-horse, circling in his race,
Advances not a single pace,
And leaves no trophies of reduction,
Save that canker-worms, destruction.
Thus, having long both countries crust,
He quits them as he found them first,
Steers home disgrac'd, of little worth,
To join Burgoyne, and rail at North.
"Now raise thine eyes, and view with
The triumps of his fam'd successor."
I look'd, and now by majic lore,

* *Prison-bars* is a kind of juvenile contest, sufficien
here. How far our author is justifiable in comparing
erations of general Howe in America, is left to be de

Faint rose to view the Jersey shore;
But dimly seen, in glooms array'd,
For night had pour'd her sable shade,
And ev'ry star, with glimm'rings pale,
Was muffled deep in evening veil:
Scarce visible in dusky night,
Advancing red-coats* rose to sight;
The lengthen'd train, in gleaming rows,
Stole silent from their slumbering foes;
Slow mov'd the baggage, and the train,
Like snails, crept noiseless o'er the plain;
No trembling soldier dar'd to speak,
And not a wheel presum'd to creek.
My looks my new surprise confess'd,
Till by great Malcolm thus address'd:
"Spend not thy wits in vain researches;
'Tis one of Clinton's moonlight marches.
From Philadelphia now retreating,
To save his anxious troops a beating,
With hasty stride he flies in vain,
His rear attack'd on Monmouth plain:
With various chance the mortal fray
Is lengthen'd to the close of day,
When his tir'd bands, o'ermatch'd in fight,
Are rescu'd by descending night,
He forms his camps with vain parde,

* *Red coats*, a term for British troops.

Till evening spreads the world with shade,
Then still, like some endanger'd spark,
Steals off on tiptoe in the dark;
Yet writes his king, in boasting tone,
How grand he march'd by light of moon.*
I see him, but thou canst not; proud
He lead in front the trembling crowd,
And wisely knows, if danger's near,
'Twill fall the heaviest on his rear.
Go on, great gen'ral, nor regard
The scoffs of every scribbling bard,
Who sing how gods that fatal night
Aided by miracles your flight,
As once they us'd in Homer's day,
To help weak heroes run away;
Tell how the hours at awful trial,
Went back, as erst on Ahaz, dial,
While British Joshua stay'd the moon,
On Monmouth plains, for Ajolon:
Heed not their sneers and gibs so arch,
Because she set before your march.
A small mistake, your meaning right,
You take her influence for her light;

* The circumstance of general Clinton's official dispatches, giving an account of his marching from Monmouth by moonlight, furnished a subject of some pleasantry in America: where it was

Her influence, which shall be your guide,
And o'er your gen'ralship preside.
Hence still shall teem your empty skull
With vict'ries, when the moon's at full,
Which by transition yet more strange,
Wane to defeats before the change;
Hence all your movements all your notions,
Shall steer by like eccentric motions,
Eclips'd in many a fatal crisis,
And dimm'd when Washington arises.
"And see how fate herself, turn'd traitor,
Inverts the ancient course of nature,
And changes manners, tempers, climes,
To suit the genius of the times.
See Bourbon forms his gen'rous plan,
First guardian of the rights of man,
And prompt in firm alliance joins,
To aid the rebels' proud designs.
Behold from realms of eastern day,
His sails innum'rous shape their way,
In warlike line the billows sweep,
And roll the thunders of the deep.
See, low in equinoctial skies,
The Western Islands fall their prize.
See British flag o'ermatch'd in might,
Put all their faith in instant flight,

Or broken squadrons from th' affray
Drag slow their wounded hulks away.
Behold his chiefs in daring sets,
D'Estrings, De Grasses, and Fayettes,
Spread through our camps their dread alarms
And swell the fears of rebel-arms.
Yet, ere our empire sink in night,
One gleam of hope shall strike the sight;
As lamps that fail of oil and fire,
Collect one glimm'ring to expire.
And lo! where southern shores extend,
Behold our union'd host descend,
Where Charlestown views, with varying beams,
Her turrets gild th' encircling streams.
There by superior might compell'd,
Behold their gallant Lincoln yield,*
Nor aught the wreaths avail him now,
Pluck'd from Burgoyne's imperious brow.
See, furious from the vanquish'd strand,
Cornwallis leads his mighty band!
The southern realms and Georgian shore
Submit, and own the victor's pow'r.

* General Lincoln was second in command in the army of gene
Gates, during the campaign of 1777, which ended in the capture
general Burgoyne. He is an officer of great reputation. He afi
wards commanded the army in South-Carolina, and was tak
prisoner with the garrison of Charleston in 1780.

Lo, sunk before his wasting way,
The Carolinas fall his prey!
In vain embattled hosts of foes
Essay in warring strife t' oppose.
See, shrinking from his conquering eye,
The rebel legions fall or fly;
And, with'ring in these torrid skies,
The northern laurel fades and dies.*
With rapid force he leads his band,
To fair Virginia's fated strand,
Triumphant eyes the travell'd zone,
And boasts the southern realms his own.
Nor yet this hero's glories bright
Blaze only in the fields of fight;
Not Howe's human'ty more deserving,
In gifts of hanging, and of starving:
Not Arnold plunders more tobacco,
Or steals more negroes for Jamacia;†

* This refers to the fortune of general Gates, who after having conquered general Burgoyne in the north, was defeated by lord Cornwallis in the south.

† Arnold, in the year 1781, having been converted to the cause of Great Britain, commanded a detachment of their army in Virginia; where he plundered many cargoes of negroes and of tobacco, and sent them to Jamaica for his own account. How far the lords Rodney and Cornwallis might have excelled him in this kind of heroic achievements, time will perhaps never discover.

Scarce Rodney's self, among th' Eustat
Insults so well the laws of nations:
Ev'n Tryon's fame grows dim, and mo
He yields the laurel crown of burning.
I see with rapture and surprise,
New triumphs sparkling in thine eyes;
But view, where now renew'd in migh
Again the rebels dare the fight."

I look'd, and far in southern skies,
Saw Green, their second hope, arise,
And with his small but gallant band,
Invade the Carolinian land.
As winds, in stormy circles whirl'd,
Rush billowing o'er the darken'd world
And, where their wasting fury roves,
Successive sweep th' astonish'd groves
Thus where he pours the rapid fight,
Our boasted conquests sink in night,
And wide o'er all th' extended field,
Our forts resign, our armies yield,
Till now regain'd the vanquish'd lan
He left his standard on the strand.

Again to fair Virginia's coast,
I turn'd and view'd the British host,
Where Chesapeak's wide waters lave
Her shores, and join th' Atlantic wave.

There fam'd Cornwallis tow'ring rose,
And scorn'd secure his distant foes
His bands the haughty rampart raise,
And bid the royal standard blaze.
When lo, where ocean's bounds extend,
I saw the Gallic sails ascend,
With fav'ring breezes stem their way,
And crowd with ships the spacious bay.
Lo, Washington, from northern shores,
O'er many a region, wheels his force,
And Rochambeau, with legions bright,
Descend in terrors to the fight.
Not swifter cleaves his rapid way,
The eagle cow'ring o'er his prey,
Or knights in fam'd romance that fly
On fairy pinions through the sky.
Amaz'd, the Briton's startled pride
Sees ruin wake on ev'ry side;
And all his troops to fate consign'd,
By instantaneous stroke Burgoyn'd,
Not Cadmus view'd with more surprise,
From earth embattled armies rise,
When by superior pow'r impell'd,
He sow'd with dragons' teeth the field.
Here Gallic troops in terror stand,
There rush in arms the rebel band;

The chief emerging from his cave,
(Where, chac'd like hare in mighty round,
His hunters earth'd him first in ground,)
And doom'd by fate to rebel sway,
Yeild all his captur'd hosts a prey.
There, while I view'd the vanquish'd town,
Thus with a sigh my friend went on;
" Behold'st thou not that band forlorn,
Like slaves in Roman triumph borne;
Their faces length'ning with their fears,
And cheeks distain'd with streams of tears,
Like *Dramatis personæ* sage,
Equipt to act on Tyburn's stage!
Lo, these are they, who, lur'd by follies,
Left all and follow'd great Cornwallis;
True to their king, with firm devotion,

r arm, once strong and brave,
now she cannot save.
ıast departed souls,
ir fate on Popish bulls,
Peter at the wicket
ntersign their ticket,
o purgatory back,
pardons in their pack;
ıust'ring at their stations
yal proclamations.
efs at ev'ry crisis,
ir leagues by sacrifices,
beasts to all their deities,
at close of treaties;
ıs, in ancient fashion.
league of cap'tulation,
ue to rebel glories,
off'ring up of tories,
liev'd from sad embargo,
gn'd a recreant cargo,
-goats to roam in pain,
ıeir great forerunner, Cain,
doom'd by British leagues.
esentful whigs,
s lives on tenure ill,
rebel-will,
; o'er their forfeit persons,

The gallows waits his sure reversion.

"Thou too, M'Fingal, ere that day,
Shall taste the terrors of th' affray.
See! o'er thee hangs in angry skies,
Where whiggish constellations rise,
And while plebeian signs ascend,
Their mob-inspiring aspects bend,
That baleful star, whose * horrid hair
Shakes forth the plagues of down and tar!
I see the pole, that rears on high
Its flag terrific through the sky;
The mob beneath prepar'd attack,
And tar predestin'd for thy back!
Ah? quit, my friend, this dang'rous home,
Nor wait the darker scenes to come;
For know that fate's auspicious door,
Once shut to flight, is op'd no more,
Nor wears its hinge by various stations,
Like mercy's door in proclamations.†

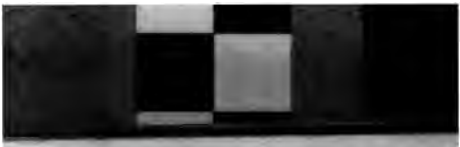
* "——— From his horrid hair
Shakes pestilence and war." *Mi*

† *The door of mercy is now open, and the door of mercy s*
shut, where phrases so often used in the proclamations of the B
generals in America, that our poet seems to fear that the hi
that door will be worn out. A general collection of these proc
tions, or an abridgment of them comprised in a few volumes,
form a curious system of rhetorical tactics; which might be of
utility to the French emigrant princes, and to those potent
Europe, who are *going* to subdue the spirit of liberty in Fran

See more [illegible]
And lo, their hostile forms ascend !
See tow'ring o'er th' extended strar
The genius of the western land,
In vengeance arm'd, his sword assu
And stand, like tories, drest in plun
See, o'er yon council-seat with prid
How freedom spreads her banners
There patriotism with torch addres
To fire with zeal each daring breas
While all the virtues in their band
Escape from yon unfriendly land,
Desert their ancient British statio
Possest with rage of emigration.
Honor, his business at a stand,
For fear of starving quits the lan
And justice, long disgrac'd at co[illegible]

But fir'd with love of colonizing,
Quit the fall'n empire for the rising."
I look'd, and saw, with horror smitten,
These hostile powers averse to Britain.
When lo! an awful spectre rose,
With languid paleness on his brows:
Wan dropsies swell'd his form beneath,
And ic'd his bloated cheeks with death;
His tatter'd robe expos'd him bare,
To ev'ry blast of ruder air;
On two weak crutches propp'd he stood,
That bent at ev'ry step he trod;
Gilt titles grac'd their sides so slender,
One, "regulation," t'other, "tender;"
H breast-plate grav'd with various dates,
"The fai h of all th' United States:"
Before him went his fun'ral pall;
His grave stood dug to wait his fall.
I started, and aghast I cry'd,
"What means this spectre at their side!
What danger from a pow'r so vain,
And why he joins that splendid train!"
"Alas!" great Malcolm cry'd, "experien
Might teach you not to trust appearance,
Here stands, as drest by fierce Bellona,
The ghost of continental money.

Of dame necessity descended,
With whom credulity engender'd
Though born with constitution frail,
And feeble strength that soon must fail;
Yet strangely vers'd in magic lore,
And gifted with transforming pow'r,
His skill the wealth Peruvian joins
With diamonds of Brazilian mines,
As erst Jove fell, by subtle wiles,
On Danae's apron through the tiles,
In show'rs of gold; his potent hand
Shall shed like show'rs through all the land.
Less great the magic art was reckon'd,
Of tallies cast by Charles the Second,
Or Law's fam'd Missisippi schemes,
Or all the wealth of South-Sea dreams.
For he, of all the world alone,
Owns the long-sought philos'pher's stone,
Restores the fab'lous times to view,
And proves the tale of Midas true.
O'er heaps of rags he waves his wand,
All turn to gold at his command.
Provide for present wants and future,
Rise armies, victual, clothe accoutre,
Adjourn our conquests by essoigne,
Check Howe's advance, and take Burgoyne,



Then make all day of payment vain,
And turns all back to rags again,
In vain great Howe shall play his part,
To ape and counterfeit his art?
In vain shall Clinton, more belated,
A conj'rer turn to imitate it;
With like ill luck, and pow'r as narrow,
They'll fare, like sorc'rers of old Pharaoh;
Who, though the art they understood,
Of turning rivers into blood,
And caus'd their frogs and snakes t'exist,
That with some merit croak'd and hiss'd,
Yet ne'er, by ev'ry quaint device,
Could frame the true Mosaic lice.
He for the whigs his art shall try,
There first, and long their sole ally;
A patriot firm, while breath he draws,
He'll perish in his country's cause,
And when his magic labours cease,
Lie bury'd in eternal peace.

"Now view the scenes in future hours,
That wait the fam'd European pow'rs.
See! where yon chalky cliffs arise,
The hills of Britain strike your eyes:
Its small extension long supply'd
By vast immensity of pride:

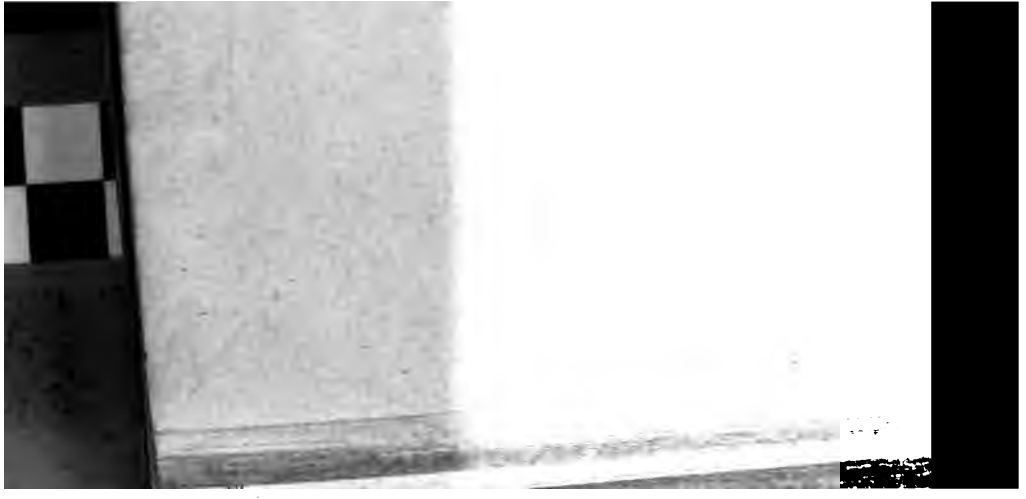
By vast immensity of pride;
So small, that had it found a station
In this new world at first creation,
Or were by justice doom'd to suffer,
And for its crimes transported over.
We'd find full room for't in Lake Erie, or
That large water-pond, Superior.*
Where North, on margin taking stand,
Would not be able to spy land.
No more, elate with pow'r at ease
She deals her insults round the seas;
See! dwindling from her height amain,
What piles of ruin spread the plain;
With mould'ring hulks her ports are fill'd
And brambles clothe the cultur'd field,
See on her cliffs her genius lies,
His handkerchief at both eyes,
With many a deep drawn sigh and groan,

* This supposition, so far as it respects Lake Superior, is not exaggerated. That lake is 2200 miles in circumference. It is supposed by some, that in this passage the author meant to ridicule the misfortune of lord North, in the loss of his sight But as this poem was written and published, word for word, as in this edition, several years before that misfortune happened, the author must be innocent of the least design upon any any thing more than mental blindness. There is no allusion to any other eyes in his lordship, then the eyes of his understanding, which were supposed, by some people, at that time to be wonderfully dim; especially when considered as belonging to the Argus of a great nation.

And see (sight hateful and torment
Th' Amer'can empire, proud and v
From anarchy shall change her cri
And fix her pow'r on firmer basis;
To glory, wealth, and fame ascend
Her commerce rise, her realms ext
Where now the panther guards his
Her de sert forests swarm with me:
Her cities, tow'rs and columns ris
And dazzling temples meet the sk
Her pines descending to the main,
In triumph spread the wat'ry plain
Ride inland lakes with fav'ring ga
And crowd her ports with whit'ni
Till to the skirts of western day,
The peopled region own her sway

Dispers'd the residue of vision:
For now the whigs intell'gence found
Of tories must'ring under ground,
And with rude bangs and loud uproar,
'Gand thunder furious at the door.
The lights put out, each tory calls,
To cover him on cellar walls,
Creeps in each box, or bin, or tub,
To hide his head from wrath of mob,
Or lurks where cabbages in row
Adorn'd the side with verdant show;
M'Fingal deem'd it vain to stay,
And risk his bones in second fray:
But chose a grand retreat from foes,
In lit'ral sense, beneath their nose
The window then, which none else knew,
He softly open'd and crept through,
And crawling slow in deadly fear,
By movements wise made good his rear;
Then, scorning all the fame of martyr,
For Boston took his swift departure:
Nor dar'd look back on fatal spot,
More than the family of Lot.
Not North, in more distress'd condition,
Out-voted first by opposition:
Nor good king George, when than dire phantom

To tarring, feath'ring, kicks and drau
Of furious, disappointed mobs,
And with their forfeit hides to pay
For him, their leader crept away.
So when wise Noah summon'd, greeti
All animals to gen'ral meeting;
From ev'ry side the members sent
All kinds of beasts to represent;
Each from the flood took care t' emba
And save his carcase in the ark;
But as it fares in state and church,
Left his constituents in the lurch.



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